

Dear colleagues,

This Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a hearing at the State House on the [CHERISH Act](#), and we need MSP members to show up in force and represent UMass!

CHERISH is a comprehensive blueprint to invest in higher education across the state, and in doing so will provide great benefits to our students and our campus:

- Debt-free public higher education in the Commonwealth
- Expansions of student support services
- Improving wages and working conditions
- Moving capital debt and expenditures off the campus's books and onto the Commonwealth's, and more

The [Fair Share Amendment](#) is bringing in the money and CHERISH will spend it responsibly to support public higher ed!

Our asks:

- First and most important: **Come to the hearing!** It's at 10am in the State House in the Gardner Auditorium on Monday, September 18th.
  - Let us know you're coming by registering [here](#) or directly contacting our MTA rep, Brendan Sharkey ([Bsharkey@massteacher.org](mailto:Bsharkey@massteacher.org)) and he will be happy to register for you! MSP will reimburse mileage and tolls, or, if you want to take a coach bus with 54 other cool people, sign up for the bus [here](#).
  - The bus will leave Haigis Mall at 6:45am and return around 4pm, and we'll have coffee and donuts for the ride to Boston.
- Bring or recruit a friend or colleague!
  - Our goal is to fill that bus, and we're only about halfway there. Faculty, staff, students – all are welcome and we want to pack that auditorium and show the legislature that CHERISH needs to be a priority!
- Can't make it Monday?
  - Submit written testimony [here](#) by Friday for us to print out and present!
  - Call your state rep and senator in support – or better yet, visit their local office!

There's more information attached to this email, including an MTA Fact Sheet and FAQ. Hope to see you there!

In solidarity,

Marc Liberatore and Eve Weinbaum