



Affiliated with the MTA and NEA

**Hearing of the Joint Committee on Public Service  
Testimony in Support of H2402  
September 8, 2015**

Chairman Timilty, Chairman Murphy and members of the Joint Committee on Public Service, my name is Robert Donohue. I am a faculty member at Framingham State University and the Vice President of the Massachusetts State College Association, the union that represents more than 1,700 part-time and continuing education faculty at the nine Massachusetts State Universities.

My part-time colleagues and I are here today to ask you to support House 2402 "An Act establishing a Massachusetts State Universities' Part-Time Faculty Health Insurance Trust Fund." This bill would create a trust fund from which subsidized health insurance could be provided to part-time faculty working at least 30 hours per week.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), inspired by Massachusetts' health care mandate, will require that 95% of the Commonwealth's employees who work at least 30 hours per week be offered affordable, minimal value health insurance in 2016. If this threshold is not met then the Commonwealth will be charged a fee that could easily be millions of dollars per year. We believe that Massachusetts tax dollars would be better spent subsidizing health insurance coverage for Commonwealth employees rather than sending those Massachusetts tax dollars to the federal government as a fee.

At this time only full-time employees at the nine state universities are eligible for GIC coverage. Creation of a trust fund may not be the best solution, but it would give the Commonwealth time to deal with the ACA mandate in a more comprehensive way, such as making part-time state employees GIC-eligible, which will require legislative and GIC regulatory changes.

The Massachusetts State College Association supports efforts to make part-time faculty GIC-eligible as the best option for the long-term, but in agreement with the Board of Higher we support House 2402 as the best immediate solution to avoid the Commonwealth from being penalized under the ACA.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of H 2404.

Robert Donohue  
MSCA Vice President