



Annual Delegate Assembly

RESOLUTION FORM_2023

RESOLUTION# - 1

To be filled in by MSCA

Resolution to Endorse & Prioritize the MTA's Legislative Agenda

May 3, 2023 - 7:28pm

RESOLUTION NAME

DATE/TIME

Mara Dodge

Westfield State University

DELEGATE MAKING MOTION

UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

Dan Mulcare

Salem State University

DELEGATE SECONDING MOTION

UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

According to MSCA Standing/Special Rules: With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED: (See Below)

RESOLUTION: (See Below)

Resolution to Endorse & Prioritize the MTA's Legislative Agenda

WHEREAS: The MTA's 2023-24 legislative agenda, created with the input of MSCA members and other higher education unions, offers a robust and thoughtfully developed program for legislative action;

WHEREAS: These bills focus on making transformational investments in public education from pre K-12 to higher ed. Combined, they articulate a clear vision for moving the Commonwealth's

public schools, colleges and universities forward.

WHEREAS: The following bills have been introduced into the General Assembly--

1. **Reinvest in Public Higher Education: The Cherish Act - *An Act committing to higher education the resources to insure a strong and healthy public higher education system.*** This bill creates a framework for adequate public higher education funding levels, including expanded support for student services; debt-free public higher education; improved wages and working conditions for faculty and staff, including benefits for adjunct faculty and part time staff; and invests in green and healthy buildings.
2. **Reinvest in Public PreK-12 Education: *An Act relative to educators' pay.*** This bill would ensure greater economic security and dignity for Education Support Professionals by establishing a statewide minimum salary. This bill would also increase the base salary for teachers.
3. ***A Fair Share of the Fair Share Amendment for preK-12 Education:*** FSA funds be allocated to support: Achieving living wages for ESPs; Funding to provide a professional nurse and librarian in every school; Support for recruiting and retaining a diverse education workforce; Significant increases in the number of counselors and mental health professionals; and Implementing elements of a community schools model.
4. **End the High-Stakes Testing Regime: The Thrive Act *An Act empowering students and schools to thrive.*** This bill eliminates the high-stakes components of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), including the graduation exam requirement and receiverships.
5. **The Right to Strike for Public Workers: *An Act uplifting families and securing the right to strike for certain public employees.*** This bill allows educators and other public employees, except for public safety personnel, to legally strike after six months of failed negotiations with their employer.
6. **Ensuring a Dignified Retirement: *An Act to provide fair and affordable public retiree benefits.*** This bill ensures greater economic security for retired educators, including by increasing the base on which the annual state and teacher pension COLA is calculated.

THEREFORE: We call upon the MSCA Delegate Assembly to vote to endorse the MTA's 2023-24 legislative agenda, created with the input of MSCA members and other higher education unions, and direct the MSCA Legislation Action Committee to work on these priorities and bills in the upcoming academic year. (Note that this does not preclude the committee from working on other bills and legislative actions.)

More details about these bills and their sponsors can be found at the MTA website - <https://massteacher.org/current-initiatives/legislative-action>

RESOLUTIONS must be submitted to the Presiding Officer prior to the commencement of the meeting. Those submitted by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 3 will be distributed to the delegates prior to the meeting. Resolutions will be considered in the order in which they are received.

Submit to: president@mzcaunion.org

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Gonsalves, Vice President of the MSCA at vicepresident@mzcaunion.org