

Whereas, Part II, c. 5, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth (1780) states that "it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this Commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences...public schools and grammar schools in the towns." And

Whereas, the Constitution was drafted by John Adams, a former Worcester schoolteacher, who in 1776 wrote in his *Thoughts on Government* that "[l]aws for the liberal education of youth ... are so extremely wise and useful, that, to a humane and generous mind, no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant." 4 *Works of John Adams* 194 (C.F. Adams ed. 1851) at 199. 415 Mass. at 583-584. And

Whereas, *McDuffy v. Secretary of the Executive Office of Education et al*, 415 Mass. 545 (1993) ruled that "the Commonwealth has a duty to provide an education for all its children, rich and poor, in every city and town of the Commonwealth at the public school level, and that this duty is designed not only to serve the interests of the children, but, more fundamentally, to prepare them to participate as free citizens of a free State to meet the needs and interests of a republican government, namely the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." 415 Mass. at 606. And

Whereas, in *Hancock v. Commissioner of Education*, 443 Mass. 428 (2005), Chief Justice Marshall emphasized that "I do not suggest that the goals of education reform adopted since *McDuffy* have been fully achieved. Clearly they have not. Nothing I say today would insulate the Commonwealth from a successful challenge under the education clause in different circumstances." 443 Mass. at 435. And

Whereas, the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center report *Cutting Class: Underfunding the Foundation Budget's Core Education Program* (2011) found "the real value of the original foundation budget has eroded significantly over time, due in large part to rapid cost growth for health care and special education. Since the foundation budget's original design did not foresee this rapid cost growth, spending reductions have been forced in other key areas, especially *Regular Education Teachers*." At Page 4. And

Whereas, the Foundation Budget Review Commission, in its Final Report (2015), stated that "22 years after the advent of education reform, the challenge we have not yet achieved desired results on is to deliver quality consistently to all geographies and all demographic groups across our state," Report, Page 4.

Now Therefore

We, the School Committee of the City of Worcester, petition the 190th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to implement without further delay in full the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.