

## Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Public Higher Education

**WHEREAS**, public education that is available to all students from prekindergarten through higher education is foundational to our democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, all of our students, no matter where they live or study, deserve access to an affordable public college or university, which prepares them for fulfilling careers and to be contributing members of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth's per-student funding for public higher education has declined by 32 percent since 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, student debt for public higher education has reached staggering levels, impoverishing students and families, and preventing many from completing their degree programs; and

**WHEREAS**, faculty and staff in community colleges, state universities and the University of Massachusetts system are experiencing the elimination of programs, service cuts, and increased use of part-time faculty and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Higher Education Finance Commission found in 2014 that our public colleges and universities are underfunded by more than \$500 million a year; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of students who attend our public colleges and universities live and work in Massachusetts after they graduate, contributing their knowledge and skills to our economy and our communities;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Malden School Committee urges the Legislature to approve and fund a foundation budget for our public higher education system that guarantees all students access to high-quality, debt-free public higher education.