

Hey Bristol,

I wanted to make sure you all heard about the emerging, cross-public higher education campaign to win funding for our colleges and universities and fight back against harmful cuts to student services. The goal is to put pressure on Commissioner Santiago & the BHE to encourage our campuses to use their reserves and to use their connections to seek level-funding for our colleges and universities so we can stem layoffs/furloughs and have the safety measures we need in the fall. MTA has hired 617Media to help with this campaign. You can visit the landing page and see the first commercial here: <http://massachusettsagrees.org/>

The big event is **Monday, August 3rd at 5pm** www.massteacher.org/COVIDonCampus where we will have testimony in front on several legislators, Marty Meehan, and Commissioner Santiago. It would be great to have as many folks involved as possible.

At this event we will be delivering a petition demanding that they stop the layoffs/furloughs, ensure safe reopening, and fight for funding. Please sign and share with your members:

www.massteacher.org/HEpetition.

Below is a summary of the 8/3 event and link to the petition, and attached is a one-page flyer with more information about the campaign. Can you share this info with your membership?

COVID Crisis on Campus: Emergency Hearing on Priorities for Public Colleges and Universities

We hope you will join your fellow union members from across the state universities, community college and uMass systems at a special hearing with our State legislators and invited Executives. This is our chance to share our perspectives on reopening plans and demand that they prioritize and protect the health and safety of faculty, staff and students. Here we will make the case for full funding of our public Higher Education systems and urge our public officials to refrain from harmful measures like layoffs and furloughs.

This is all taking place on Monday, August 3rd at 5pm via Zoom. Please register at:

www.massteacher.org/COVIDonCampus and a link will be provided to you.

The purpose of the "COVID Crisis on Campus" hearing is to present testimony to legislators, Commissioner Santiago and President Meehan on our three demands:

- health and safety
- full employment (stop the layoffs, furloughs, non-reappointments, work overload and program cuts)
- funding for public higher ed

Be sure to sign the petition to the Board of Higher Ed and the Board of Trustees of UMass in advance of the hearing on Monday: www.massteacher.org/HEpetition.

Best,

Colleen

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