

RE: Vote YES on cloture on the small business bill and yes on the education jobs fund

Dear Senator,

Vote YES on cloture on the small business bill and yes on the education jobs fund. As an art educator on Cape Cod and as a member of the Cape Cod and Islands Art Educators Association, I have seen a number of teaching positions eliminated. This impacts the quality of the programs being offered students and undermines public responsibility to prepare children to meet the challenges of the future. There are MANY challenges ahead of us as a nation.

As an educator and your constituent, I strongly urge you and your Senate colleagues to vote yes on the small business bill and yes on the education jobs fund.

Please take a moment to read the email I received as a graduate of Westfield State College-now "University". It summarizes the foresight of a previous Massachusetts leader and his understanding of the value of education. Horace Mann was an American education reformer, and a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1827 to 1833. He served in the Massachusetts Senate from 1834-1837. It articulates the purpose and value of a public education.

"Founded in 1838 by Horace Mann, Westfield is an education leader committed to providing every generation of students with a learning experience built on its founding principle as the first co-educational college in America to offer an education without barrier to race, creed or economic status. This spirit of innovative thinking and social responsibility is forged in a curriculum of liberal arts and professional studies that creates a vital community of engaged learners who become confident, capable individuals prepared for leadership and service to society."

Sincerely,
Lee Connolly Weill