



# MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN

## ***An Act Creating Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and other Developmental Disabilities H.634 – S. 698***

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Haddad, Rep. Garballey - Sen. L'Italien

These bills allow persons with intellectual disabilities (ID), autism, and other developmental disabilities to access state colleges and universities in order to gain skills necessary to work and live independently in the community as adults, implementing key recommendations of the legislative Task Force on College Inclusion. Access to college improves the rates of employment, wages, self-determination skills, and independent living for adults with severe disabilities. This bill removes barriers, allowing individuals with ID and autism to participate in courses and campus life if they have not *passed* MCAS. The legislation also codifies the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative grant program, supporting partnerships between high schools and public institutions of higher education in order to include students. The bill also provides consideration of higher education for older students through the special education process.