The Honorable Senator Gobi and Representative Roy,

As a resident of [place here] and faculty member/librarian [state which] in [state discipline] at UMass Boston, I am writing to you to ask you to keep the UMass System to its word and to protect UMass Boston’s academic programs and mission by acting to stop competition from UMass Amherst's Mt Ida campus. As if the enormous debt that tears at the academic fabric of UMass Boston, incurred by its corrupt and shoddy construction, weren’t enough, now the campus also has to deal with competition—from within the UMass system!

At the hearing on Mt Ida in May 2018, UMass Amherst and the UMass System said that there would be no competition with UMass Boston.  The committee that investigated this said that Mt Ida should be available to all campuses. But instead UMass Amherst’s Mt Ida campus is *directly* competing with UMB, and that this should be stopped.

UMass Amherst is now offering a Business and Analytics program that directly competes with offerings at UMass Boston, and it wants to offer 35 other programs, including a master’s degree in Accounting and one in Computer Science  and will offer Geographical Information Science courses. (For a list of course offerings at the Mt Ida campus, and an analysis of competition with UMB course offerings, see the attachment.)

The UMass system should operate as a system, not as competing campuses. I ask your committee on Higher Education to hold hearings on the Mt. Ida campus to investigate this problem and hold UMass Amherst at its word.

I also urge you to back the very reasonable demands of the UMass Boston Faculty and Staff Union: that

* The UMass trustees establish a more transparent process for approving academic programs or courses offered at the Newton campus.
* The UMass trustees operate the university as a truly coordinated system and not as a collective of individual competitive campuses.
* UMass Boston be given a greater voice in plans for the Newton campus.
* Competing programs and courses at the Newton campus be immediately halted.