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Massachusetts Board of
Elementary and Secondary Education
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Dear Sirs and Madam:

The Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) represents a broad and diverse group of Turkish Americans nationwide, including Turkish Americans in Massachusetts. Among our members are Turkish Americans who are secular in their lifestyles as well as those who are observant Muslims. We support the United States Constitution, American diversity, and integration into broader American society.

It has come to our attention that your office will be considering the application of the Hampden Charter School of Science, which is associated with a Turkish group headed by a self-declared Islamic cleric, Fethullah Gulen, who resides in Pennsylvania.

We find it necessary to distinguish ourselves from the Gulen group. This group goes by many names and faces, such as "HIZMET", which in Arabic means "Service". HIZMET, however, has become, pardon the pun, HAZMAT for many communities across America and many observant Muslims who have been targeted for the wrongdoings of the Gulen network, including:

- Visa fraud regarding its employees
- Discriminatory contracting practices regarding their Charter Schools
- Discriminatory labor practices, particularly regarding women

- Illegal campaign funding
- Illegal Congressional visits to Turkey

We, therefore, would like to urge extreme caution and the exercise of due diligence regarding the “Hampden Charter School of Science” and the Gulen network to which it belongs, including its leader Gulen (aka “Hoja Efendi”/“Gentle Master”), mid-management (“Agabeyler”/“Big Brothers”/“Chief Lords”), administrators, teachers, as well as its financial assets and sources here and *abroad*. Information concerning the movement and how its schools are used for purposes other than education can be found at:

- [-http://turkishinvitations.weebly.com](http://turkishinvitations.weebly.com)
- [-http://guleninvestigation.com](http://guleninvestigation.com)
- [-https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/08/120-american-charter-schools-and-one-secretive-turkish-cleric/375923/](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/08/120-american-charter-schools-and-one-secretive-turkish-cleric/375923/)
- [-http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/education/272424-charter-schools-vulnerable-to-controversial-turkish-movement](http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/education/272424-charter-schools-vulnerable-to-controversial-turkish-movement)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gunay Evinch
Co-Chairman

Derya Taskin
Secretary General

Murat Guzel
Treasurer

Mustafa Tuncer
Executive Committee

Oya Bain
Executive Committee

cc: TASC Board of Directors
TASC Board of Advisors

* Websites of organizations not affiliated with TASC.

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The Turkish American National Steering Committee
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