

June 14, 2021

Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Michlewitz and Chairman Rodrigues,

The [Massachusetts Business Coalition on Skills](#) (MBCS) appreciates your ongoing efforts to prepare an FY 2022 budget that prioritizes economic recovery and invests in workforce skills development. The MBCS is a coalition of 27 diverse business organizations from across the state that advocates for equitable skills development policies so our current and future workforce can meet employers' needs. As you reconcile the differences between the House and Senate spending plans, the MBCS urges you to support the funding amounts for the following two line-items because they expand access to innovative education and training opportunities.

\$6 million for Career Technical Institutes (line-item 7002-1091)

The MBCS supports the \$6 million in funding for Career Technical Institutes (CTI) proposed in S.2465 because it enables the state to train a projected 20,000 new workers in skilled trades over the next four years by leveraging existing training facilities. CTI has the potential to increase the number of skilled workers ready to enter stable career tracks in a variety of in-demand fields. By developing the skills of the state's workforce, CTI increases economic opportunity and contributes to economic growth.

\$6 million for Dual Enrollment (line-item 7066-0019)

The MBCS supports the \$6 million in funding for the Department of Higher Education's dual enrollment grant and subsidies line-item as proposed in S.2465. This investment in early college will provide almost 6,000 high school students the ability to earn 1,500 full-time college years of credit. Further, early college promotes education equity for all students by enabling high schoolers to enroll in college courses at no cost to the student. Due to the pandemic, there has been a decline in students of color enrolling in college, and early college serves as an effective pathway to a college degree and employment.

Thank you for your consideration. The Coalition looks forward to being a resource to you as the Legislature continues to prioritize skills development and attainment.

Massachusetts Business Coalition on Skills

- 1Berkshire
- Amplify Latinx
- Bedford Area Chamber
- Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern MA, ME, RI & VT
- Black Economic Council of Massachusetts
- Blackstone Valley Chamber
- Cape Cod Chamber
- Greater Boston Chamber
- Kendall Square Association
- Mass Technology Leadership Council
- Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents
- Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
- Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association
- Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
- Nashoba Valley Chamber
- Neponset River Regional Chamber
- Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
- North Central Massachusetts Chamber
- North Shore Chamber
- One SouthCoast Chamber
- Quincy Chamber
- Retailers Association of Massachusetts
- Somerville Chamber
- Springfield Regional Chamber
- Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council
- Worcester Regional Chamber

CC: Members of the FY 2022 Budget Conference Committee