



October 2, 2018

Ms. Jane Howard
Director of Collaboration and Partnerships
Strada Education Network
9998 Crosspoint Blvd.
Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46256

Dear Ms. Howard:

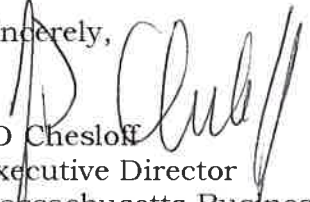
The Massachusetts Business Roundtable (MBR) is pleased to offer this letter of strong support for Commonwealth Corporation's "Innovative Solutions in Education-to-Employment" grant proposal.

MBR is a non-partisan, non-profit public policy organization comprised of Chief Executive Officers and senior business leaders from some of the largest employers in Massachusetts. Our members employ more than 250,000 people in diverse industry sectors across the state. Recruiting and retaining talent is among the top concerns of employers and a major public policy priority for the Roundtable. Business leaders are deeply familiar with the key issues and challenges that Strada's grant competition seeks to address, including the pressing need to resolve the skills gaps using employer and labor market driven approaches.

For many years, Commonwealth Corporation has been a valued partner in helping our members address these same challenges through the signature programs it administers on behalf of the state, such as the Workforce Training Fund and the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund. As such, we were excited to learn of their plans to develop the foundation for a formal system of lifelong learning in Massachusetts by creating new opportunities for entry-level employees to benefit from high quality online, competency-based credential programs, starting with our state's health care industry. This is consistent with the Roundtable's education & workforce development principles and represents just the kind of innovative approach we need to make sure new generations of Massachusetts residents have a full opportunity to share in our economy's promise—and to ensure that Massachusetts employers are positioned to continue to grow and thrive.

MBR has great confidence in Commonwealth Corporation's ability to put in place the plans it has articulated in its grant application. We look forward to continuing to work with them on this important endeavor, and urge you to give them your strongest consideration as you evaluate their request for support.

Sincerely,


JD Chesloff
Executive Director
Massachusetts Business Roundtable