



For Release: March 16, 2018

**Statement of Massachusetts Business Roundtable Executive Director JD Chesloff
On House Speaker Robert DeLeo's Early Education and Care Announcement**

Earlier today, Speaker DeLeo announced a proposal to expand professional development opportunities for early educators through new partnerships with community colleges. This marks an important and exciting step in a comprehensive strategy to invest in the most significant determinant of quality in early childhood, the educator leading the classroom. The Early Education and Care Business Advisory Group, convened to make recommendations on the early childhood workforce, released a report suggesting a strategy that included stabilizing early childhood providers while simultaneously building a sustainable workforce development system for early educators, specifically referencing the importance of connections with Community Colleges. The Speaker's proposal is consistent with these findings, and continues his steadfast commitment to early educators and the children and families they serve. The Business Advisory Group believes that developing, professionalizing and retaining the early education workforce is critical to delivering high-quality programming, and the Roundtable thanks Speaker DeLeo for his leadership. Access to high-quality early childhood education and care not only benefits children, but is also a workforce issue, an economic development issue and a business imperative. The Roundtable is pleased to support this initiative.