



June 10, 2005

Senator Therese Murray
Senator Steven C. Panagiotakos
Senator Michael R. Knapik
Representative Robert DeLeo
Representative Marie St. Fleur
Representative Vinny M. deMacedo
Committee on Conference
The State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Conferees:

The National Business Roundtable has made early childhood education a priority in its national education agenda, concluding that *“America’s continuing efforts to improve education and develop a world-class workforce will be hampered without a federal and state commitment to early childhood education for 3- and 4-year-old children. In today’s world, where education and skill levels determine future earnings, the economic and social costs to individuals, communities, and the nation of not taking action on early childhood education are far too great to ignore.”*

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable concurs, which is why we are pleased to serve on the Early Education for All Campaign’s Advisory Committee. We share in the belief that for Massachusetts to remain competitive in an increasingly global economy, we must make targeted investments in the education of our children that yield the most positive returns. Research has conclusively shown that early childhood education is one of these areas.

MBR commends the House and Senate for continuing to pursue the vision of universal, high quality early childhood education in the FY06 budget process. As you continue Conference Committee deliberations, MBR respectfully urges you to consider the following positions as advocated by the Early Education for All Campaign:

- **Infrastructure at the Department of Early Education and Care -- 3000-1000**
Support the House language and appropriation of \$10,307,670.
- **Pilot Scholarship Program for Early Educators -- 7070-0065**

- Support House language that creates a \$1,000,000 pilot scholarship program for early childhood educators.
- **Rate Increase for Early Education and Care Providers – 1599-0042**
Support Senate appropriation of \$12.5 million rate increase.
 - **Kindergarten Grants – 7030-1002**
Support House appropriation of \$25 million in kindergarten grants and Senate language on full day kindergarten study.
 - **Low-income child care subsidies – 3000-4050**
Support Senate appropriation of \$292 million.

Thank you for your leadership on this important component of the state's education agenda. MBR stands ready to continue to work with you and your colleagues on a comprehensive education agenda that both populates the pipeline of future workers and solidifies Massachusetts as a leader in the new innovation economy.

Sincerely,

Alan Macdonald, Executive Director
Massachusetts Business Roundtable