



June 7, 2005

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, we are writing in support of H.D. 4472, "An Act Relative to Teacher and Administrator Quality Throughout the Commonwealth" – filed by Assistant Majority Leader Lida Harkins – which is scheduled to receive a public hearing on Thursday, June 9 before the Committee on Education. Research shows that the teacher is the most significant contributor to student achievement. In fact, Stanford University's Hoover Institution found that "the most effective teachers were able to boost their pupils' learning by a full grade level more than students taught by their least successful colleagues." What a teacher knows, believes, and can do is crucial for helping students to achieve academic results.

H.D. 4472 is crucial for continuing the important work in Massachusetts that began with the education reform law of 1993. While Ed. Reform established standards and accountability for student performance -- which was needed -- its vision of all children achieving at a proficient level will be nearly impossible unless we grow and support expert teachers and leaders for every student. In a planful and systematic way, this legislation integrates those components that we know influence teacher quality, such as teacher education, teacher certification, teacher evaluation, new teacher induction, professional development, career advancement, and workplace conditions.

The goals of the legislation are consistent with efforts we are tracking on the national level as well. The national Business Roundtable, in a March 2004 report entitled "Securing Growth and Jobs: Improving U.S. Prosperity in a Worldwide Economy" warns that "without deliberate focus and intervention, the talent pipeline for research and innovation in the United States, especially in engineering and physical sciences, is in jeopardy." The Roundtable is calling for improving the quality of mathematics and science teaching, particularly the content knowledge of teachers already in the classroom. H.D. 4472 provides a systemic and comprehensive approach to achieve this goal and is just the type of "focus and intervention" necessary to properly education our children for a new economy. We urge your support of this legislation as part of a broad effort to help all students achieve proficiency.

Sincerely,

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Gary DiCamillo, President and CEO
TAC Worldwide Companies
*Chair, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
Business Roundtable
Education Task Force*

Alan Macdonald
*Executive Director
Massachusetts*