



April 20, 2006

The Honorable Robert E. Travaglini
President of the Senate
The Honorable Salvatore F. DiMasi
Speaker of the House
The State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Travaglini and Speaker DiMasi:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable (MBR), we are writing in support of H.4157, "An Act to Improve the Quality of Teaching and Administrative Leadership in the Public Schools."

MBR and our Education Task Force believe that enhancing educator professionalism is a necessary component of the next phase of education reform, especially in light of over a decade of research attesting to the pre-eminence of teaching and administrative leadership for showing gains in student achievement. We have therefore been involved with the comprehensive effort to address educator quality, which is being coordinated by Teachers²¹ and has led to this legislation. H.4157 addresses the issues of teaching and administrative leadership in a way that is both comprehensive in scope and positive in nature. It seeks to integrate rigorous standards, adequate supports, and effective accountability into the personnel processes that influence what educators know and are able to do for our students. In short, the investments in H.4157 are designed to help support and build successful careers for our most important capital assets in public education – our teachers and administrators – and subsequently improve outcomes for children which, of course, is our ultimate goal. MBR supports this approach.

Employers' success relies not only upon having an educated workforce today, but the knowledge that our public education system is creating a pipeline of educated workers for the future. Recognizing this, MBR is calling for systemic improvements in the personnel processes that influence our educator workforce. We are extremely pleased to join with the other members of the coalition created by Teachers²¹ to help develop, and now support, H.4157.

Sincerely,

Gary T. DiCamillo, President
American Crystal, Inc.
Chair, MBR Education Task Force

Alan Macdonald
Executive Director

cc: Joint Committee on Education, Representative Lida Harkins