

April 9, 2007

Senator Robert A. Antonioni
Representative Patricia A. Haddad
Joint Committee on Education
The State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Antonioni, Chairwoman Haddad, and Committee Members:

As members of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable's Education Task Force, we are writing in support of H.451/S.284, "An Act Relative to Educator Excellence."

We are concerned that far too many of our young people are leaving school without acquiring the kinds of skills and knowledge that are a prerequisite for success in today's increasingly global economy. To address this, we believe it is imperative to enhance educator professionalism, especially given the research confirming that the teacher is the most significant contributor to student achievement.

We have therefore joined with the Working Group for Educator Excellence, a collaborative effort being coordinated by Teachers21, which has drafted and is now submitting this legislation for your review. 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.

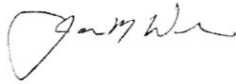
It professionalizes the conditions of teaching and leading, by providing consistent and rigorous standards, sufficient supports and effective accountability for all Massachusetts public educators. It will make educator excellence a top public policy priority in the state, reflecting the vital role of teachers in preparing our students for the challenges of the global economy.

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 pleased to join with the other members of the coalition created by Teachers²¹ to help develop, and now support, H.451/S.284. We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,



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



Jack M. Wilson
President
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cc: Governor Deval Patrick
Dana Mohler-Faria, Special Advisor on Education
Senator Therese Murray, President of the Senate
Senator Stephen Panagiotakos, Chairman, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Representative Salvatore F. DiMasi, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Representative Robert A. DeLeo, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means