



MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

**Testimony of Alan G. Macdonald, Executive Director
H.451/S284, "An Act Relative to Educator Quality Throughout the Commonwealth"
June 19, 2007**

Chairman Antonioni, Chairwoman Haddad, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of "An Act Relative to Educator Quality Throughout the Commonwealth." The Chairman of the Roundtable's Education Task Force, Gary DiCamillo, President and CEO of GW Premier America, has taken a leadership role in helping to develop and drive support for this legislation, which is a top priority for MBR

As business leaders, Roundtable members 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. This group includes a broad-based coalition, including teachers unions, business groups, higher education and other statewide education associations whose collaborative efforts are testament to the bill's wide range of support.

The legislation was developed through a three and half year process, with input from a wide variety of stakeholders, including the staff and leadership of your Committee. It professionalizes the conditions of teaching and leading, by providing consistent and rigorous standards, sufficient supports and effective accountability for all Massachusetts public educators. This career development model, including evaluation and feedback, is part of the culture of the best private companies. Passage of this legislation 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.