



Senator Barry R. Finegold, Chair
Representative Carol A. Fiola, Chair
Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
The State House
Boston, MA 02133

September 17, 2025

Dear Chair Finegold, Chair Fiola, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express the Roundtable's strong support for H.4375, *An Act to preserve and advance Massachusetts' competitiveness in discovery, research, and innovation for a vibrant economy*, also known as DRIVE.

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable is a statewide public policy organization comprised of Chief Executive Officers and Senior Executives from some of the state's largest employers representing over 300,000 Massachusetts employees. The mission of the Roundtable is to make Massachusetts the most desirable place to live, work, and do business by engaging private sector executives and public leaders to ensure access to a robust, diverse, and talented workforce that enhances the Commonwealth's competitiveness in a global economy.

As you know, the legislation, filed by Governor Healey, proposes to invest \$400M in the state's research and innovation ecosystem, \$200M to provide multi-year support for research projects at Massachusetts hospitals, universities, and independent research institutions, and \$200M to support the state's public colleges and universities. At a time of much uncertainty for our economy and foundational industries, this proposal signals a bold statement about the state's intention to continue to lead, innovate, and attract and retain the best talent in the world.

Massachusetts is an innovation based, research based, talent-based economy that is fueled in large part by a decades long partnership with the federal government. That partnership has led to global leadership in some of the state's foundational industries, such as higher education, health care, life sciences and clean energy. With uncertainty surrounding the future of that partnership, the state must think differently about how to maintain its leadership and support the transformative innovations that are developed here.

Roundtable members from the industries that underpin our economy have expressed their support “to advance the frontiers of discovery and develop solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges.” The Roundtable is also pleased to be serving on the Advisory Commission on Advancing Research and Discovery in Massachusetts established by Executive Order to work collaboratively with you, the legislature, and stakeholders from throughout our world-leading innovation ecosystem to advance this agenda.

The Roundtable looks forward to working closely with the Committee to advance the DRIVE initiative to create jobs, solidify our competitiveness on the global stage, and fuel an essential part of the state’s economy. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "JD Chesloff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "C".

JD Chesloff
President & CEO