



January 9, 2026

The Honorable Maura Healey  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of the Massachusetts Governor  
Massachusetts State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

We are writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Business Coalition for Early Childhood Education (MassBiz4EarlyEd), a diverse statewide coalition of employer leaders from [85 companies with more than 300,000 Massachusetts employees and 22 business association partners representing thousands of businesses](#) from all regions and industries, and the [Massachusetts Business Roundtable](#) (MBR), a public policy organization comprised of Chief Executive Officers and Senior Executives from some of the state's largest employers. Thank you and the entire Healey-Driscoll Administration for delivering yet another year of historic leadership, in strong partnership with the Legislature, on behalf of early care and education (ECE) programming that is vital to the success of all children, families, communities, employers, and the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness.

As a result of your Administration and the Legislature's extraordinary leadership, Massachusetts has increased its investments in ECE over the past seven years by 140% to more than \$1.7 Billion. Moreover, *how* and *why* Massachusetts is investing in its ECE infrastructure is equally, if not more, important. Child care now is recognized as critical infrastructure to support the healthy growth and development of children, as well as equitable opportunity for families to participate in a robust economy.

Massachusetts is truly making child care about education *and* workforce *and* economic development for the betterment of all families, communities, and businesses – and the results are showing. Over the last three years, Massachusetts has bent the curve on what had been nearly two decades of stubborn decline within our early childhood education system. Today, the number of licensed child care programs stands at more than 9,100, which not only represents a full recovery of pandemic losses, but an 8% *increase* above the pre-pandemic figure. This includes a 27% growth in family child care programs, which often are well-positioned to serve working families with non-traditional hours, culturally and linguistically responsive care, and difficult to obtain infant and toddler care. All of this has led to the

creation of 30,000 new child care seats across the state, while the number of families receiving financial assistance increased by 32%. Importantly, compensation for early childhood educators, “the workforce behind the workforce, also meaningfully increased during this time. Simply put, Massachusetts is building a powerful asset for families and the economy through its commitment to early childhood education.

**As the Commonwealth contemplates both the fiscal realities and opportunities present in current calendar year and Fiscal Year 2027 (FY26), we very respectfully ask for your continued support for the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Grants, and any opportunities to enhance access to Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) programs and provider reimbursement rates. We believe the C3 grants, in particular, are driving the gains above, and we encourage you to increase funding for the program to \$500 Million to address inflation and maintain the program’s efficacy.**

**Furthermore, we applaud the progress achieved by your Inter-Agency Task Force on Early Education and Child Care, which we recognize is a visionary and potentially high-impact approach to bringing the “whole of government” together to make our ECE system a bona fide strength for the Commonwealth’s families. We encourage you to communicate the Task Force’s achievements as a powerful means of amplifying the many multi-generational benefits provided by early childhood education, and would be happy to assist you. We also look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to support implementation of the Task Force’s recommendations, including the EEC Employer Child Care Innovation Fund.**

We appreciate your leadership in making ECE a powerful component of our Education, Workforce, and Economic Development systems. Again, please continue to utilize our organizations as resources, as we endeavor to partner with you to create a “world-class” ECE system that will endure as a cornerstone for more successful and equitable communities and economic opportunity for all residents.

Sincerely,

Tom Weber  
Executive Director  
MA Business Coalition for  
Early Childhood Education

JD Chesloff  
President and CEO  
Massachusetts Business Roundtable

Cc: Matthew Gorzkowicz, Secretary, Executive Office of Administration and Finance  
Patrick Tutwiler, Ph.D., Secretary, Executive Office of Education  
Amy Kershaw, Commissioner, Department of Early Education and Care  
Lauren Jones, Secretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development  
Eric Paley, Secretary, Executive Office of Economic Development