



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
Massachusetts State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Michlewitz:

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 House 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 the Legislature and Administration'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 of your strategic investments are showing clearly. 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 the current calendar year and Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), we very respectfully ask for your continued support for the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Grants. 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 help address inflation and maintain the program’s efficacy.

Furthermore, we support both the Governor’s proposed \$133 Million increase to the Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA) Program to support access for eligible families and her proposed \$11.45 Million increase to expand access to high-quality prekindergarten opportunities for students and families in our Gateway Cities through the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI).

Finally, we also look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Commonwealth to support the EEC Employer Child Care Innovation Fund, which you helped create under the FY25 State Budget

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: The Honorable Ronald Mariano, Speaker
The Honorable Alice Peisch, Assistant Majority Leader
The Honorable Kenneth Gordon, Chair, Joint Committee on Education
Michele Lisio, Office of Speaker Ronald Mariano