



January 31, 2025

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

Dear Chairman 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 of Representatives for delivering yet another year of historic leadership, in strong partnership with the Senate and Healey-Driscoll Administration, 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.

We believe that ECE, especially for children ages 0-5, represents critical economic infrastructure that helps enable Massachusetts to attract and retain the talent necessary to achieve a thriving and more equitable economy. Our belief is well founded. Ground-breaking [Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation \(MTF\) research](#) in 2022 concluded that insufficient child care costs Massachusetts between \$2.6 billion and \$3 billion each year, impacting families, businesses, and tax revenues, while [research by ReadyNation](#) shows that the annual impact on U.S. families, businesses, and taxpayers is \$122 billion – more than double since 2018.

As a result of the Legislature and Administration's extraordinary leadership, Massachusetts has been able to more than double its investments in ECE over the past five years to \$1.55B. Moreover, *how* and *why* Massachusetts is investing in its ECE infrastructure is equally, if not more, important. In the face of the pandemic's unprecedented challenges to the ECE system, the Legislature immediately launched and led the EEC Economic Review Commission, and quickly commenced implementing its recommendations across FY23, FY24, and FY25, driving the aforementioned progress. We were grateful for the opportunity to work with you on the Commission and the advancement of its blueprint for systemic improvements, including implementation of the EEC Employer Pilot (line item 3000-1049). Today, Massachusetts is the

only state in the nation to maintain catalytic one-time Federal funding with State investments. 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.

Notwithstanding our extraordinary state leadership in ECE, [MTF's latest Massachusetts demographics research](#) advises us to stay on point with impactful strategies to make Massachusetts more affordable and competitive for families. Faced with historically low birth rates, an increasing aging population, and cost of living headwinds, Massachusetts is losing residents to other states. Thank you for continuing to focus your leadership to address barriers to affordability and economic opportunity, including child care.

As the Commonwealth contemplates both the fiscal realities and opportunities present in current calendar year and Fiscal Year 2026 (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. Together, these programs are stabilizing and growing the ECE sector, and providing access to high-quality ECE for children and families, and, thus supporting economic opportunity and mobility for working families, and creating a competitive advantage for the entire Massachusetts economy.

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.

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 of the House
The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch, House Assistant Majority Leader