

April 22, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Michlewitz:

The [Massachusetts Business Coalition on Skills](#) (MBCS), a coalition of 27 diverse business organizations that support strengthening workforce skills development programs and policies, appreciates the House Ways and Means Committee's efforts to prioritize reskilling our workforce of today and tomorrow in the FY 2023 budget. The MBCS is encouraged to see these important proposed investments, which includes \$38,209,819 to fund line items that will create work-based learning opportunities, support essential skills development, and enhance Career Vocational/Technical Education (CVTE). The coalition urges the legislature to maintain these proposed funding levels and adopt Amendment #334, which would require Career Technical Institutes Reporting.

### Experiential Learning

Employers embrace experiential learning models because they are proven ways to strengthen both essential and job-specific skills. Models like learn to earn and apprenticeships benefit employees who develop skills in a real work environment. Employers also benefit because they can train employees with the specific skills for their industry or job needs. School-to-career connecting activities are public-private partnerships that provide similar on-the-job learning opportunities for students.

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2023
7002-1080	Learn to Earn	\$1,000,000
7003-0151	Registered Apprenticeship Expansion	\$1,000,000
7027-0019	School-to-Career Connecting Activities	\$8,000,000

### Essential Skills Development

Essential skills, also known as non-technical skills, are critical for career success. The coalition supports funding YouthBuild, the state's program that prepares students to enter the workforce and provides development of essential skills and urges you to maintain the increased funding of \$3,000,000.

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2023
7061-9626	YouthBuild Grants	\$3,000,000

### Enhance CVTE

CVTE provides students with technical skills for in-demand jobs. Funding for Career Technical Institutes will extend CVTE opportunities to adult learners by opening CVTE facilities during after-school hours for training. This benefits both program participants and employers who are seeking talent amid a shortage of workers. The Career Technical Partnership grants is a new program that would develop career

pathways for career technical programs. The MBCS urges the continued funding levels for the line items for Career Technical Institutes and Career Technical Partnership grants.

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2023
7002-1091	Career Technical Institutes	\$20,379,819
7027-0020	Career Technical Partnership Grants	\$4,830,000

**Reporting Requirement**

The coalition urges the adoption of Amendment #334, which would amend line item 7002-1091. This Amendment would require the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development submit a report on vocational technical schools that are operating career technical institutes. With this reporting requirement, critical information regarding the impact of the CVTE on employment outcomes will be shared to help improve the future of technical skills training.

Amendment	Line Item Description	FY 2023
334 Amending 7002-1091	Career Technical Institutes Reporting Requirement	

Thank you for prioritizing the workforce and employers of today and tomorrow. The Coalition looks forward to being a resource as the Legislature continues to prioritize skills development and attainment.

*Massachusetts Business Coalition on Skills*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1Berkshire</li> <li>Amplify Latinx</li> <li>Bedford Area Chamber</li> <li>Black Economic Council of Massachusetts</li> <li>Blackstone Valley Chamber</li> <li>Cape Cod Chamber</li> <li>Greater Boston Chamber</li> <li>Kendall Square Association</li> <li>Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MassTLC)</li> <li>Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents</li> <li>Massachusetts Business Roundtable</li> <li>Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation</li> <li>Nashoba Valley Chamber</li> <li>Neponset River Regional Chamber</li> <li>Newton-Needham Regional Chamber</li> <li>North Central Massachusetts Chamber</li> <li>North Shore Chamber</li> <li>One SouthCoast Chamber</li> <li>Quincy Chamber</li> <li>Retailers Association of Massachusetts</li> <li>Somerville Chamber</li> <li>Springfield Regional Chamber</li> <li>Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council</li> <li>Worcester Regional Chamber</li> </ul> |
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