

May 24, 2021

Senator Karen E. Spilka, President  
Massachusetts Senate  
State House, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Spilka and Chairman Rodrigues,

The [Massachusetts Business Coalition on Skills](#) (MBCS) appreciates your continued efforts to prepare an FY 2022 budget that prioritizes economic recovery and invests in workforce skills development. The MBCS is a coalition of 27 diverse business organizations from across the state that advocates for equitable skills development policies so our current and future workforce can meet employers' needs. As debate begins on S.3, the MBCS urges you to support Amendment #701 (Career Technical Institutes) because it expands access to innovative education and training opportunities.

Amendment #701, filed by Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, increases the funding for the Career Technical Institutes (CTI) line-item (7002-1091) from the proposed \$6M to \$15.4M. The MBCS supports the increased funding for CTI because it enables the state to train a projected 20,000 new workers in skilled trades over the next four years. CTI has the potential to increase the number of skilled workers ready to enter stable career tracks in a variety of trades.

Thank you for your consideration. The Coalition looks forward to being a resource to you as you finalize the FY 2022 budget and continue to prioritize skills development and attainment.

*Massachusetts Business Coalition on Skills*

- Berkshire
- Amplify Latinx
- Bedford Area Chamber
- Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern MA, ME, RI & VT
- Black Economic Council of Massachusetts
- Blackstone Valley Chamber
- Cape Cod Chamber
- Greater Boston Chamber
- Kendall Square Association
- MassTLC
- Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents
- Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
- Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association
- Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
- Nashoba Valley Chamber
- Neponset River Regional Chamber
- Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
- North Central Massachusetts Chamber
- North Shore Chamber
- One SouthCoast Chamber
- Quincy Chamber
- Retailers Association of Massachusetts
- Somerville Chamber
- Springfield Regional Chamber
- Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council
- Worcester Regional Chamber

CC: Members of the Massachusetts Senate