



November 16, 2021

Representative Aaron Michlewitz
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Daniel Hunt
State House, Room 166
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Cindy Friedman
State House, Room 208
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Todd Smola
State House, Room 124
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Patrick O'Connor
State House, Room 419
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Conferees,

On behalf of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and our 1,300 members, thank you for prioritizing an equitable funding distribution in the APRA and supplemental funding package. As you negotiate differences between the two branches, the Chamber would like to highlight the following investments that will give a boost to the state's workforce at a time when it needs it.

Investments in Workforce Development

\$150 million for **workforce skills training**, line-item 1599-2027 from H.4234

The Chamber supports \$150 million in funding included in the House version for Career Technical Institutes (CTI), rapid reemployment contracting, learn-to-earn, and additional proven models to help enhance workforce development and workforce opportunities. This funding is prioritized for those in the workforce hit hardest by the pandemic, which is a critical component for equitable distribution of funds.

\$75 million for the **Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund**, line-item 1599-2037 from S.2580

The Chamber supports \$75 million in funding included in the Senate version for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund because investing in this fund will help develop industry partnerships to fill vacancies in the job market. As demand for skilled labor has skyrocketed, matching industry partners with skilled labor will be crucial to maintain our regional competitive edge.

\$40 million for **Summer Jobs Program for At-Risk Youth**, line-item 1599-2037 from H.4234

The Chamber supports \$40 million in funding included in the House version for the Summer Jobs Program for At-Risk Youth. The Chamber [previously supported](#) the Summer Jobs Program because it employs at-risk youth during summer months. Private businesses and organizations can also participate in this program by hiring youth and giving them first-hand experience in workplaces.

\$5 million for the **Edward M. Kennedy Institute**, line-item 7002-0102 from H.4234

The Chamber supports \$5 million in funding included in the House version for the Edward M. Kennedy Institute because this funding will support civic education programming by assisting with debt service obligations.

Investments in the Tourism and Hospitality Industries

\$125 million for the **cultural and tourism industries**, line-item 1599-2026 from H.4234

The Chamber supports \$125 million in funding included in the House version for cultural and tourism assets. Cultural and tourism institutions continue to struggle due to the pandemic and require investments during this time to survive and thrive.

Spending Transparency

\$5 million for the **Inspector General's Office**, line-item 1599-3003 from H.4234

The Chamber supports \$5 million in funding included in the House version for the Inspector General's Office for tracking expenditures from COVID-19 relief funds such as ARPA funds. Transparent reporting will ensure accountability and build public trust.

Predictability for Businesses

Section 34 of S.2580: **Payment of Sales Tax**

The Chamber supports this section included in the Senate version because this change to existing language will allow businesses to estimate their current monthly sales tax liability based off a previous month's filing. This change will give businesses predictability as they pay monthly sales tax liabilities on an advanced schedule.

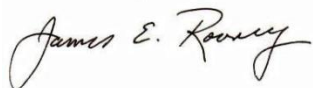
Pre-Conferenced Items

Thank you for \$100 million in capital investments at vocational and career and technical schools. For employers, these schools provide a direct pipeline of homegrown talent trained for in-demand jobs using labor-market aligned curriculum.

Thank you for the \$500 million that will fund the depleted Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. This increased funding to the UI Trust Fund will provide small businesses relief from burdensome payments.

We appreciate your consideration of the Chamber's priorities for a final spending package. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



James E. Rooney
President and CEO