



April 24, 2026

Speaker Ronald Mariano
Massachusetts House of Representatives
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

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

Dear Speaker Mariano and 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’s continued prioritization of reskilling our workforce of today and tomorrow by allocating critical funds throughout the State budget. The MBCS is encouraged to see significant investments in skills development, which includes line items that will create work-based learning opportunities, support essential skills development, and enhance Career Vocational/Technical Education (CVTE). As you begin debate on the FY27 budget, the coalition urges you to take our below priorities into consideration.

Experiential Learning

Employers embrace experiential learning models because they are proven ways to strengthen both essential and job-specific skills. Learn-and-earn models like internships 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 on-the-job learning opportunities for students. **The coalition urges maintaining funding for Registered Apprenticeship Expansions (7003-0151), and to adopt Amendment #418 (Gordon) to increase School-to-Career Connecting Activities (7027-0019) to increase its appropriation to \$8M.**

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2027
7003-0151	Registered Apprenticeship Expansion	\$3,333,577
7027-0019	School-to-Career Connecting Activities	\$6,472,081

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 develop essential skills for a successful career and **urges the House to adopt #1111 (Garry) match the FY26 total of \$3M.**

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2027
7061-9626	YouthBuild Grants	\$1,750,000

Enhance CVTE

CVTE is an effective method for training our next generation of talent with the skills they need to be successful in the workforce. We would ask that you continue your critical investments by **maintaining funding for the Innovation Pathways Expansion (7027-0020) program.**

We were grateful for the House's previous investments into CVTE expansion (1596-2513) included in previous excess surtax legislation. This funding increases student access to CVTE by expanding existing capacity. As you are well aware, the demand for seats at our Vocational-Technical schools has continued to far outpace current capacity limits, and the additional funding found within this budget (7035-0001) will help prepare our students for in-demand jobs in all regions of the Commonwealth. **We would ask that you continue this critical investment by adopting Amendment #985 (Moran) to increase funding to \$4M.**

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2027
7027-0020	Career Technical Partnership Grants	\$4,764,151
7035-0001	CVTE Expansion Grants	\$3,000,000

Support our Career Technical Institutes

Increasing funding for Career Technical Institutes will extend additional CVTE opportunities to adult learners by building out industry recognized credentialing pathways in technical and trade fields. This benefits both program participants and employers who are seeking talent amid a shortage of workers. **The coalition urges you to increase funding for this item to match the FY26 appropriation \$9.1M.**

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2027
7002-1091	Career Technical Institutes	\$8,898,244

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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Bedford Area Chamber
Black Economic Council of Massachusetts
Blackstone Valley Chamber
Cape Cod Chamber
Charles River Regional Chamber
Greater Boston Chamber
Kendall Square Association
Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council
Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents
Massachusetts Business Roundtable
Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association

Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
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