



June 15, 2026

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

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

Representative Kip Diggs, Assistant Vice Chair
House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 238
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Joanne Comerford, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 410
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Todd Smola, Ranking Minority
House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 124
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Patrick O'Connor, Ranking Minority
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 419
Boston, MA 02133

Dear FY27 Conference Committee Members,

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 Legislature’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 conference committee negotiations, the coalition urges you to take our below priorities into consideration.

Essential Skills Development

Essential skills, also known as non-technical skills, are critical for career success. The coalition supports funding YouthBuild (7061-9626), the state’s program that prepares students to enter the workforce and develop essential skills for a successful career. **We urge you to adopt the Senate’s funding of \$3M for this line item.**

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2027
7061-9626	YouthBuild Grants	\$3,000,000

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. The funding found in Career Technical Partnership Grants (7027-0020) is critical to the implementation, operation, and expansion of innovation pathway programs that connect students and other jobseekers with career opportunities in high demand industries. We are strongly **supportive of the Senate’s proposal to use surtax funds to increase this line item to \$7.6M and would ask that you adopt the Senate’s funding level.**

Line Item	Line Item Description	FY 2027
7027-0020	Career Technical Partnership Grants	\$7,764,496

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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| 1Berkshire | Nashoba Valley Chamber |
| Amplify Latinx | Neponset River Regional Chamber |
| Bedford Area Chamber | North Central Massachusetts Chamber |
| Black Economic Council of Massachusetts | North Shore Chamber |
| Blackstone Valley Chamber | One SouthCoast Chamber |
| Cape Cod Chamber | Quincy Chamber |
| Charles River Regional Chamber | Retailers Association of Massachusetts |
| Greater Boston Chamber | Somerville Chamber |
| Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council | Springfield Regional Chamber |
| Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents | Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council |
| Massachusetts Business Roundtable | Worcester Regional Chamber |
| Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association | |
| Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation | |