

MASSACHUSETTS
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***Mass. High Tech. Council Renews Call on Legislative Leaders to Support
Increased Access to Public Charter Schools***
***State's leading technology group highlights economic imperative of expanding access to
charter schools.***

Today the Massachusetts High Technology Council renewed its call for legislative leaders to support legislation that would allow more children - particularly those in Massachusetts' highest-need communities - to attend public charter schools.

In a [letter to all legislators](#), including Senate President Stan Rosenberg and House Speaker Bob DeLeo, Council President Chris Anderson urged legislator to act favorably on charter expansion legislation filed by Governor Baker. The Council was joined by leaders of eight of the state's leading business, educational and civic organizations including Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Mass. Business Roundtable, Mass. Fiscal Alliance, Mass. Taxpayers Association, the Mass. Technology Leadership Council and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

“Our members face a growing scarcity and intensifying demand for well-educated individuals who are prepared for employment and success in the innovative industries and companies that drive our collective success,” said Anderson, echoing the coalition letter. **“Massachusetts is fortunate to draw a talented workforce from an array of sources from across the globe. But none of these sources has more importance, or holds more promise, than the predominantly home-grown talent produced by our public education system.”**

In 2010, the Council and a similar coalition of business and civic leaders successfully advocated for raising existing caps on charter schools in certain school districts. Those higher enrollment limits, however, were maxed out in just a few years, and today 37,000 students are on waiting lists to attend charter schools. In 2014, the Mass. House of Representatives passed legislation that would allow the additional expansion of charter schools in underperforming school districts but the changes were rejected by the State Senate.

Anderson urged legislators to view charter school expansion as an opportunity to show Massachusetts school children and their parents that public schools can provide a clear path to a limitless future.

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The stakes for Massachusetts are high. There is a strong sense of urgency among business and civic leaders – in particular Council members – to bring long overdue reforms and innovations to the state’s public education system. This urgency is underscored by advances made by students in classrooms around the world – particularly in math and science. While the Massachusetts school system overall leads the nation, there are too many students and teachers trapped in underperforming schools. Massachusetts still has a long way to go to bring true educational opportunities – and rewarding career pathways – to all its students.

About the Massachusetts High Technology Council – www.mhtc.org

The Massachusetts High Technology Council is the oldest and only cross-sector association of technology, professional services, and higher education CEOs and senior executives in Massachusetts. As advocates for public policies and programs that create and maintain a healthy and competitive business climate, the Council has lead winning strategies for 37 years. In addition to its mission focus on cost competitiveness and talent development, the Council also works to preserve and strengthen federal defense assets in Massachusetts and support a robust and productive interaction among those assets and the public and private technology sectors across New England.

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