



Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation



January 11, 2016

Dear Senator:

As the leaders of nine of Massachusetts' largest business, educational and civic organizations, we are writing to urge your support of Governor Baker's legislation to lift the cap on public charter schools in Massachusetts. By supporting this legislation you will be standing up for the 37,000 students stuck on public charter school waiting lists across Massachusetts who seek educational opportunities that will prepare them for a bright future. And we recognize and appreciate the fundamental questions of fairness and equality of opportunity that are at stake in this issue.

There is also, however, a compelling and urgent economic imperative that forward-looking leaders must consider. As the leaders of organizations that represent thousands of Massachusetts employers, we rely on and are deeply appreciative of the Commonwealth's highly-skilled workforce. But we 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.

Massachusetts is fortunate to draw a talented workforce from an array of sources, including the best and brightest minds 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.

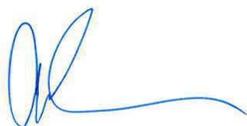
For this reason, we are collectively committed to ensuring that every child has access to a great school. In Massachusetts today, 17 communities are home to 77 percent of children on charter school waiting lists, and nearly 9-in-10 of the state's lowest-income children of color live in these underperforming districts. We simply cannot afford to ignore this enormous pool of high-potential individuals and we must do better to equip them to seize the limitless opportunities our innovation economy offers to so many others in the state.

That is why we support Governor Baker's sensible proposal to expand public charter schools by 12

statewide each year, focusing on communities that need them most. This targeted approach will go a long way towards meeting the undeniable demand of families and businesses across our state.

We urge you to join us in embracing this opportunity to make the necessary expansion of opportunity to all of our children in order to grow our economy and strengthen our Commonwealth for the years to come.

Sincerely,



Christopher Anderson  
Massachusetts High Technology Council



Richard Lord  
Associated Industries of Massachusetts



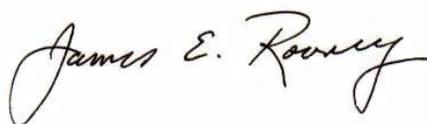
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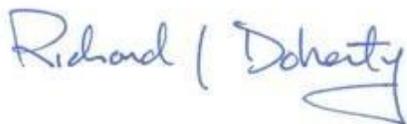


James Rooney  
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce



Paul Craney  
Mass. Fiscal Alliance

Tom Hopcroft  
Mass Technology Leadership Council



Association of Independent Colleges and  
Universities in Massachusetts