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Business Urges Legislators to Resist Writing a Blank Check for Education

December 13, 2018 – Responding to growing demands to increase state education funding, the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education and members of our business affiliate network are calling on state leaders to resist calls to write a blank check for education. State leaders must set specific, higher improvement targets, particularly to serve our most disadvantaged students, and implement reforms that close the racial and socio economic achievement gaps and workforce skills gaps that threaten the economic and social health of the state.

Every job that goes unfilled because no one is qualified for the position is a missed opportunity for a student. We need to do more to help them seize those opportunities.

Just 37% of Massachusetts students who finished ninth grade in 2009 went on to complete a post-secondary credential. That is tragically low given estimates that 72% of jobs in the Commonwealth will require a career certificate or college degree by 2020. Employers feel the results of this disconnect every day. Workforce availability is a significant challenge. At the same time, students miss out on opportunities to secure good jobs in our knowledge economy.

The solution is not just more funding. How the money is spent matters. MBAE and our affiliates are calling for funds to be set aside to spur school innovation that closes achievement gaps and increases college and career success as a part of any change to our state education funding formula. The state must also act quickly to better prepare students for the workforce through measures that increase student opportunity to gain workplace experience and the credentials demanded by employers.

Signed by:

Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
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Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
Bristol County Chamber of Commerce
Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce
Concord Chamber of Commerce
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Mass Technology Leadership Council
Massachusetts Competitive Partnership
Massachusetts High Technology Council

Massachusetts Society of CPAs
Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce
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Newton-Needham Regional Chamber
North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce
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