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Statement From the Massachusetts High Technology Council on the Proposed 2024 Ballot Question to Eliminate the MCAS Exam as a Graduation Requirement

The Massachusetts High Technology Council stands firmly opposed to the proposed 2024 ballot question filed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, which seeks to eliminate the MCAS exam as a graduation requirement.

“This proposal would jeopardize the futures of Massachusetts high school graduates, endanger the state’s standing as a national leader in education, and put the state’s economy at a further competitive disadvantage,” said High Tech Council President Chris Anderson and former Chair of the State Board of Education. “The High Tech Council opposes any effort to undermine the state’s landmark education reform law and weaken the value of a Massachusetts high school diploma. Eliminating this statewide standard would do a disservice to all students, particularly students in underperforming districts and schools.”

Eliminating the current requirement for Massachusetts students to achieve a passing score on the MCAS exam to receive a high school diploma would diminish the value of that diploma. The MCAS exam ensures that students in the Commonwealth are proficient in critical subjects like math and English, providing colleges, universities, and employers with the confidence that our graduates possess the necessary skills to excel.

[Integral to the 1993 Education Reform Act](#), the MCAS exam has played a pivotal role in elevating Massachusetts schools to national excellence. A single statewide assessment exam that all students must pass promotes equity across school districts, ensuring that every student is held to the same high standards regardless of their zip code or the quality of their school district.

This ballot question, in conjunction with other proposed ballot questions that seek to increase costs for businesses and consumers, would weaken Massachusetts' competitiveness compared to other states and directly contradict the very objectives set forth by state leadership to bolster Massachusetts' competitive position. In CNBC’s recently released [2023 rankings of America's Top States for Business](#), Massachusetts dropped from its position as the #1 state for Education, a position the state has held since 2015. Massachusetts was once again ranked 49th among all states for the Cost of Doing Business, underscoring the urgency for swift action to reverse these trends and fortify our competitive edge. At a time when Massachusetts is already losing people and jobs to other states, it is crucial that we remain steadfast in our commitment to maintaining a high standard of education.

About the Massachusetts High Technology Council

The [Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc.](#) is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing innovation, technology, and scientific companies; professional services firms; and research institutions dedicated to collaborating to create and sustain conditions that support investment, job growth, and improved quality of life in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-

intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver, and depend on technology and scientific products, services, and innovations to advance their organizational objectives—a definition that covers just about all business enterprises in Massachusetts today.

Our mission is to help make Massachusetts the world's most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow businesses within the innovation ecosystem.

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