



June 27, 2022

Dear Distinguished Conference Committee Members,

The [Massachusetts Early Childhood Funder Collaborative](#) (MA ECFC) is a statewide philanthropic collaborative of over [25 leading foundations](#) and individuals who support the early childhood sector. We work to strengthen the community of early childhood funders and drive policy and systems change to support the Commonwealth's youngest residents and their families. Our vision is that all young children in Massachusetts have the opportunities and supports they need to thrive. Our work is informed by and done in collaboration with a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), composed of 17 early childhood leaders, including practitioners, parents, and advocates.

The CAC has underscored for us how crucial it is to support early childhood educators and the providers that employ them. Of note, the Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) grants are critically important to ensuring that providers are able to keep their doors open. Without them, many providers would be forced to close their doors. As we wrote in a [March letter](#) to Chairs Lewis, Michlewitz, Peisch, and Rodrigues in support of funding and implementation for the Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission report recommendations, "It is critical that we work quickly towards ensuring that our educators make a family-sustaining wage, and have entry and growth opportunities." In addition to their immediate operational support, the C3 grants are a catalytic innovation, the potential first step towards a sustainable early childhood workforce and system.

We are writing to highlight and align with the [budget requests by our friends in the Massachusetts Business Coalition for Early Childhood Education and the Massachusetts Business Roundtable](#). The House and Senate budget recommendations represent historic investments that clearly outline the Commonwealth's priorities to ensure a brighter future for its youngest residents. We hope that you will adopt the strongest elements of both.

Fully funding early education and care will positively impact the lives of three main groups of Massachusetts residents - children receiving high-quality early childhood services, parents who are able to contribute economically knowing their children are thriving in care, and the early education workforce, who dedicate their lives to raising our Commonwealth's future.

Thank you for your continued focus on our children - the future of Massachusetts, and their families, and educators.

Sincerely,

Brian Gold
Director
Massachusetts Early Childhood Funder Collaborative