



November 19, 2025

Representative Ann Bollin, Chair
Michigan House Appropriations Committee
Michigan State House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Support to Codify the Michigan Achievement Scholarship

As organizations representing hundreds of Michigan businesses across the state, we continue to hear from members about the shortage of employees with the skills and education needed to grow our businesses and attract new investment. According to MI School Data, only 53.4% of graduating high school seniors enroll in post-secondary education within six months — the lowest rate in the Great Lakes region and a sharp decline from a decade ago.

We write in strong support of the House to amend House Bills 4955 and 4956 to include the transparency language in Senate Bills 382 (S-1) and 383 (S-1), which codify the Michigan Achievement Scholarship into statute. This legislation provides the transparency metrics business organizations requested — income levels, persistence and graduation rates, and the types of credentials earned. These measures will help policymakers assess the program's impact on Michigan's talent pipeline and economic mobility.

By establishing this program in statute, the Legislature can ensure a reliable framework with consistent accountability while preserving flexibility through the annual appropriations process. This balance provides predictability for students and adaptability for lawmakers.

Michigan's prosperity depends on the skills of its workforce. Codifying the Michigan Achievement Scholarship is a vital step toward building a nation-leading talent infrastructure. **We urge swift passage of House Bills 4955 and 4956 with the transparency language included from Senate Bills 382 and 383 (S-1 versions).**

Thank you for your leadership and for advancing policies that expand opportunity, support students, and grow Michigan's economy.

Sincerely,

Sandy Baruah, President
Detroit Regional Chamber

Brian Calley, President
Small Business Association of Michigan

Jeff Donofrio, President & CEO
Business Leaders for Michigan

Kevin Stotts, President
TalentFirst

Jim Holcomb
Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Rick Baker
Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce