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On behalf of the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA), **I want to ask for your support of Amendment #386 to the recently passed Senate Budget that creates a permanent IT Advisory Board.**

CompTIA represents over 19,000 members worldwide in the converging computing and communications market and is best known for developing industry standards. Our members include computer hardware and software manufacturers, distributors, retailers, system integrators, training, service, telecommunications and Internet Service Providers. Collectively our members employ hundreds of thousands of people and produce billions of dollars of goods and services each year. In Massachusetts alone, CompTIA has 210 member companies.

On June 26th, 2002, Governor Swift signed into law Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2002 titled "An Act Providing for Certain Information Technology Improvements". Section 6 of that act established the Massachusetts Information Technology Commission to recommend an enterprise-wide strategy for the Commonwealth's information technology infrastructure, system development, and governance that includes all three branches of government and the constitutional offices. On February 27, 2003 the special IT Commission approved its final report titled "Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Enterprise IT Strategy." One of the commission's recommendations was to legislatively establish a permanent IT Advisory Board to support the Commonwealth's CIO in setting enterprise policies and standards, and in providing oversight of major IT initiatives. That recommendation was used as the basis for Senator Magnani's IT Advisory Board amendment #386 (enclosed) to the 2005 budget.

This IT Advisory Board would be an essential element to effective enterprise IT strategy and oversight. Massachusetts does not have an enterprise direction that represents all stakeholder groups, or a mechanism for developing one. In addition, the Commonwealth needs executive-level leadership to achieve collaboration and leverage IT investments across the enterprise. An IT Advisory Board, with broad representation and strong participation from state government leadership, can be effective in broadening the vision, setting the collaborative tone, and committing organizations to an enterprise business strategy that can be advanced through alignment with an enabling IT strategy. To facilitate this communication, the legislative and judicial branches should designate IT leaders to represent the interests of those branches to the Commonwealth CIO and the IT Advisory Board.

As a leading elected official of a state with a wonderful high tech reputation, I know that you share our concerns regarding the need to establish a permanent IT Advisory Board. On behalf of CompTIA, I urge you to support the IT Advisory Board amendment during this year's conference committee.

If I can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Grant T. Mydland
Director, State Government Relations & Grassroots Programs