



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

24 March 2016

General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Boston, MA, 02133

Speaker DeLeo, President Rosenberg, and Members of the General Court:

We write to ask you to support continued funding for the Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program, which was included as a \$100,000 line item in the FY16 budget.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the 6,800 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in all matters concerning their welfare, academic opportunities, and professional careers after graduation. We support all measures that make more employment opportunities and more employment-based visas available to international students who obtain their graduate degrees in the US. Therefore, **we strongly support the Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program.**

MIT students and faculty have founded more than 30,000 currently active companies that employ about 4.6 million people and generate annual revenues of \$1.9 trillion, which is equivalent to the world's 10th largest economy. As 43% of MIT graduate students are international students, many of these companies are founded outside of the US. The absence of straightforward immigration solutions for US-trained entrepreneurs feeds the stream of students returning to their home countries upon graduation and strengthening foreign economies instead of our own.

The Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program enables highly-skilled foreign entrepreneurs to start their own businesses in the United States by providing them with opportunities to mentor students at the University of Massachusetts and thus obtain H1-B visa sponsorship. **We believe that the Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program offers an important pathway for international student graduates to remain in Massachusetts and engage in entrepreneurship.**

We urge you to maintain funding for the Global Entrepreneur in Residence Program at least at the current \$100,000 level. This would continue to enable graduate students from MIT and other universities to apply their skills in Massachusetts, strengthen our local economy, and create jobs.

Best regards,

Brittany Huhmann
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MIT Civil and Environmental Engineering

Peter Su
MIT GSC Legislative Action
MIT Materials Science and Engineering

Rachel Gilmore
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