



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Inspector General & State Auditor Issued a Joint Statement Commending the Senate on Passing An Education Collaborative Reform Bill, January 2012

Inspector General Greg Sullivan and State Auditor Suzanne Bump today issued the following statement regarding the passage of *An Act Relative to Improving Accountability and Oversight of Education Collaboratives* by the Massachusetts Senate:

"Our investigation and audit of the Merrimack Special Education Collaborative, and audits of Southeastern Massachusetts Education Collaborative, and the READS Collaborative demonstrated a clear need to strengthen the oversight, accountability, and transparency of the Commonwealth's Education Collaborative system. We are greatly pleased that the work of our offices and our findings and recommendations have served as catalysts for bringing about these critically needed reforms.

We are particularly grateful for the leadership of Senate President Therese Murray and Senators Sonia Chang-Diaz and Stephen Brewer in taking swift action to remedy the deficiencies we found within the collaborative system. And we are hopeful that this process not only ends fiscal abuse, but provides for the efficient and effective delivery of high quality programs to the students the education collaboratives serve."