RE: Early Education and Care Data Advisory Commission: Fiscal Year 2025 Report to the Legislature

Dear Chairs and Members:

Pursuant to Chapter 15D, Section 12 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is pleased to submit its Fiscal Year 2025 report on the establishment and initial work of the Early Education and Care Data Advisory Commission.

The FY25 report provides an overview of the Commission's statutory charge and membership, summarizes its inaugural meeting held on April 3, 2025, and outlines planned next steps. The Commission is charged with making recommendations to improve the use of state, provider, and program-level data related to the cost, quality, and utilization of early education and care services.

The report also highlights EEC's ongoing efforts to strengthen its data and research capacity, including the launch of the agency's Key Performance Indicator Dashboards and research agenda, as well as technology initiatives to modernize the family and educator portals. These efforts are intended to improve data collection and analysis, strengthen decision-making, and support greater transparency and accessibility.

The Commission will initially meet quarterly, with future meetings organized around EEC's strategic priorities, including Family Access, Workforce Support, Program Stability, and Program Quality. Its continued work will focus on identifying opportunities to improve data quality, streamline reporting requirements, and expand the Department's use of data to inform policy and program decisions.