



Charlie Baker criticizes union labor mandate for UMass project

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BOSTON - A state board's decision to mandate the use of union workers on a \$750 million overhaul of the University of Massachusetts-Boston is drawing criticism from some quarters, including a Republican candidate for governor.

Supporters of the Project Labor Agreement approved by the University of Massachusetts Building Authority board this week, including the administration of Gov. **Deval Patrick**, say it guarantees a higher quality workforce and eliminates the risk of strikes.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Charles Baker says the practice is politically motivated and could drive up the cost of the project by \$100 million.

An official with the Merit Construction Alliance, which represents nonunion contractors, tells The Boston Globe that the decision is "antitaxpayer and antiworker."