



October 20, 2026

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Cindy Friedman,
Senate Chair,
Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing

The Honorable John Cronin,
Senate Vice Chair,
Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing

The Honorable Bruce Tarr,
Ranking Senate Minority Member,
Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Meghan Kilcoyne
House Vice Chair,
Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing

The Honorable Hannah Kane,
Ranking Minority Member,
Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing

Dear Conferees,

As you work to resolve the differences between S.3141, *An Act Relative to Primary Care for You*, and H.5630, *An Act Strengthening Primary Care and Advancing Health Care Affordability*, we ask you to keep affordability of health care at the forefront of your deliberations.

We represent employers in a wide range of industry sectors in Massachusetts, including retail, manufacturing, professional services and restaurants but share a common goal – making Massachusetts more affordable for businesses, residents and taxpayers so that we can collectively thrive, grow our economy and better position our commonwealth for the future.

We all recognize primary care physicians as essential providers in our health care system and support more resources being dedicated to primary care practices. Each of the bills propose additional spending on primary care by establishing primary care expenditure targets as a percentage of total health care

expenditures that increase over time. In both bills, the primary care percentage eventually reaches 15 percent of total healthcare expenditures, but the bills have different phase-in periods and enforcement mechanisms. Our concern is that the bills establish minimum primary care expenditure targets with no explicit requirement that this be accomplished by a reallocation of resources rather than additional spending. We respectfully ask you to either add an explicit requirement that the additional spend on primary care does not add any more to the overall cost of care and impose meaningful consequences for those providers that violate this provision, or that you further study this legislation and instead focus your attention on more immediate cost relief measures.

The bills also impose a new regulatory apparatus that adds considerable compliance costs. At a time when significant healthcare cost increases serve as a barrier to accessing care for the growing number of people who cannot afford their health-related, out-of-pocket expenses, we are concerned that these proposals will only add cost to an already unaffordable system. Finally, the establishment of rates or minimum rate floors should be removed from the bills. These types of provisions will raise costs and should be left to the market to determine appropriate contracted prices.

We appreciate your thoughtful approach to this important issue. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Eileen McAnneny
President
Employer Coalition on Health

Eric Gulko
President
Innovo Benefit Group

Steve Clark
President and CEO
Massachusetts Restaurant Association

Gregory Puig
President
National Association of Benefits and
Insurance Professionals – MA Chapter

Christopher Carlozzi
Massachusetts State Director
National Federation of Independent

Thomas O'Rourke
President and CEO
Neponset River Regional Chamber of Businesses
Commerce

Zach Donah
President and CEO
New England Society of CPAs

Karen Andreas
President and CEO
North Shore Chamber of Commerce

Jim Stergios
Executive Director
Pioneer Institute

Jon Hurst
President
Retailers Association of Massachusetts