

M A S S A C H U S E T T S
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka
Room 212
State House
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez
Room 243
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairwoman Spilka and Chairman Sanchez,

As you and your colleagues begin consideration of the FY19 state budget, as proposed by Governor Baker in House Bill 2, the Massachusetts High Technology Council urges you to support the modifications to MassHealth included in Section 71 of the bill which would shift coverage for approximately 140,000 nondisabled adults from MassHealth to the Massachusetts Health Connector. We believe the proposed changes in Section 71 represent an opportunity to preserve affordable health care coverage for these individuals while achieving significant savings for the Commonwealth in FY19 and beyond.

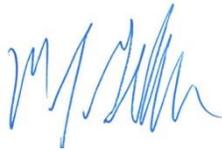
As it is currently structured, the Commonwealth's MassHealth program is fundamentally unsustainable. Immediate modifications are essential to preserve MassHealth as an important safety net for residents of the Commonwealth who truly need it. In addition, without such reforms, MassHealth spending will continue to encroach on other critical state investments in education, infrastructure, economic development, public safety and other budget priorities. More revenue alone will not make MassHealth sustainable. Instead, the program's fundamental cost-drivers must be brought under control.

In 2017, the Council supported a new temporary assessment on employers as an important means to provide interim financial support for MassHealth until needed reforms to the program can be fully implemented and the associated cost savings realized. The Council's support for the proposed EMAC increase, however, has been absolutely conditioned on the adoption of the proposed reforms to MassHealth and an ironclad commitment to sunset the assessment no later than the end of 2019. The legislature's decision not to adopt more

significant reforms to MassHealth in 2017 is deeply troubling to our members and the many responsible employers who supported the EMAC increase as one component of a comprehensive reform package.

We know you are well-aware of the fiscal challenges Massachusetts faces in FY19 and beyond. The Council believes that any serious response to these challenges must include significant modifications to the MassHealth program. The Council is committed to working with you, your fellow legislators in the House and Senate and Governor Baker to advance these critically important modifications to MassHealth.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Gallagher
Vice President
Policy & Government Relations
Mass. High Technology Council

Cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means