



June 26, 2017

The Honorable Robert DeLeo  
Speaker of the House  
Massachusetts State House, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Stanley Rosenberg  
Senate President  
Massachusetts State House, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Brian Dempsey  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Massachusetts State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Karen Spilka  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Massachusetts State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Rosenberg, Chairman Dempsey and Chairwoman Spilka,

We are writing on behalf of the low-income families we serve who rely on MassHealth. We are concerned about the Governor's recent proposal to make changes to MassHealth that would result in thousands of families losing access to affordable care.

The governor calls for authorizing the MassHealth agency to deny or terminate access to non-disabled adults who have access to affordable employer sponsored health insurance. This will affect low-income families with children who have relied on MassHealth as a work support. Without this critical support, we are concerned that some families will not be able to afford to work and pay for their health insurance and therefore the proposed changes may serve as yet another barrier working against low-income families trying to do the right things to move themselves out of poverty.

Additionally, the proposal calls for lowering the upper income limit for MassHealth from 133% to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). If enacted this would result in 100,000 parents with children and 40,000 childless adults impacted. We strongly oppose the reduction. For a single parent working full time at minimum wage, it is the difference between MassHealth with nominal copays, dental coverage and transitional Medicaid, to having greater costs, higher copays, and limited access to essential care for their families.

We urge you to reject these aspects of the governor's proposal to ensure low-income working parents can continue to access affordable care for themselves and their children. Thank you for taking these concerns under consideration.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth D. Babcock MCRP, Ph.D  
President and CEO