

Dear _____,

Congratulations on your election to the Massachusetts Legislature. We are a coalition of unions and non-profit organizations representing more than [big number] thousand members, writing to ask for **your support and leadership on “An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts.”** This bill would establish a single-payer health care system in Massachusetts, which guarantees comprehensive health care coverage for every resident from cradle to grave, and replaces our high and rising premiums with taxes based on every resident’s ability to pay. We ask that you co-sponsor the bill, which will be re-filed by Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa in the House and Sen. Jamie Eldridge in the Senate, and join the “Medicare for All Caucus” to take a leadership role in advancing the legislation.

Our current health care system is not sustainable:

- Health care spending takes up more than 45% of the State’s \$52 billion budget. It is the elephant in the room - our largest expenditure by far, crippling our ability to fund other pressing priorities like education, housing, local aid, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and our environmental crisis.
- Massachusetts has the second highest health care costs in the country - an astonishing \$10,500+ per person. Premiums alone for the average family health plan now exceed \$21,000 per year, with deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance, and uncovered services draining thousands more from family earnings.
- Even before the pandemic, 27% of Massachusetts residents reported having an unmet medical need because of cost barriers, and one-third had out-of-pocket costs higher than \$3,000 in the last year.
- With the advent of COVID-19, unemployment in Massachusetts has been among the highest in the nation during the crisis, standing at 11.3% as of August 2020, putting displaced workers at risk of losing their health insurance, and threatening the state budget as enrollment in public health plans surges.

There is a better way. Medicare for All would cover everyone - regardless of employment status - and improve coverage, at less cost, while leaving in place our independent providers, physician practices, and non-profit hospitals.

Americans now support Medicare for All in unprecedented numbers: 88% of Democrats, 52% of Republicans, and 70% of all Americans. Yet, partisan politics have gridlocked Congress even as Americans continue to suffer the impacts of the pandemic. We in Massachusetts can lead the way by disconnecting health care from employment, and joining the rest of the developed world by guaranteeing health care as a right.

The Massachusetts Medicare for All bills in the last legislative session were co-sponsored by 73 State Senators and Representatives - all before COVID-19. Since the pandemic hit, the medical needs, risks, and costs have only escalated, driving popular demand for a comprehensive, systemic solution.

We would love to schedule a video conference meeting with you in the next 3 weeks to talk more about the legislation and what it would mean for our members, and to answer any questions you might have. Please contact Benjamin Day at ben@healthcare-now.org or 617-777-3422 to schedule a meeting with representatives from our coalition.

Thank you for your consideration, sincerely,

[List of signing organizations]