

July 24, 2006

The Honorable Robert E. Travaglini
Senate President
State House Rm 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. President:

Your leadership that resulted in the enactment of Chapter 58, the health care reform law, is deeply appreciated. We believe the structures put in place as a result of your efforts and the Governor's will have positive results for every Massachusetts citizen in the years to come.

As with any complex legislation, review after the fact often reveals technical and operational issues related to timing, consistency, and clarity. The Legislature often undertakes corrective action to cure such problems as they are discovered. Chapter 58 is no different. It is a very complex law and upon review contains a number of issues that need to be corrected in order to ensure that the different elements of the reforms work together in the way that has been envisioned. Because Chapter 58 is so important and because implementation occurs in a very short time period, these issues need to be addressed as soon as possible.

This letter cannot do justice to the range of such issues because they need to be discussed in detail. Generally, the issues include synchronization of implementation dates so that deadlines in specific areas build consistently upon each other (e.g., dependent coverage), clarification of wording (e.g., HMO products and deductibles), and incomplete structures (e.g., membership of the Connector board).

Everyone wants this bold new approach to health care to work — delivering on the promise of health insurance for every citizen of the Commonwealth. Correcting these technical and operational issues is vital to the promise.

We urge you to continue your leadership for the people and employers of Massachusetts by creating a technical amendments bill for Chapter 58 and gaining passage as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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