



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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January 24, 2018

Ms. Valerie Sullivan, Chair
Group Insurance Commission
19 Staniford Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Chair Sullivan:

I am writing to convey my concern over the process the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) employed to consolidate health plan offerings for state employees and retirees. The Commission's proceedings should be conducted in the open with an opportunity for public input and with full transparency.

The proposal recently adopted by the commission affects fully half of all state employees and has unsettling implications for comparable coverage and continued access to chosen medical professionals. The action taken by the GIC has caused considerable consternation among members who have already been quite vocal in expressing their concerns about maintaining their current health care plans in light of this planned reduction of provider options.

The need for half of the health plan members of the Commonwealth to look for a new health provider by July 1, 2018 is extremely disruptive for the entire system – for patients, their doctors and other medical professionals, and the providers. I agree with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey that the \$20 million in savings voted by the GIC is insufficient to justify the widespread disruption that will be caused.

I urge the GIC Commissioners to reconsider their action of January 18, 2018 and look to increase the choice of providers amongst the three health plans dropped. Public employees deserve greater choice in their health care decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Koczera".

Robert M. Koczera
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11th Bristol District