



MINUTEMAN INDIVISIBLE

May 14, 2018

To the Governor's Office:

Subject: Healthcare for Massachusetts Citizens

We appreciate the difficult job that Governor Baker has in balancing the fiscal needs of Massachusetts with the most basic healthcare needs of our citizens, especially in view of the ongoing assault on meaningful national *and* state healthcare programs in Washington.

We are fortunate to live in Massachusetts, a Commonwealth where our citizens, our legislators, and our governor recognize the importance of robust basic healthcare services. Poor or spotty healthcare services have a collateral negative effect on all of us emotionally, productively, and fiscally.

In the summer and fall of 2017, most Americans came to realize the critical importance of their basic healthcare benefits. Nationwide, a substantial majority of voters held their members of Congress responsible for resisting the "repeal & replace" efforts in the US House and Senate, and both bills were defeated. However, after the defeat of the "repeal and replace" bills, the assault on federal and state healthcare programs is now being hidden in "unrelated" budget and spending bills. These "me-first" bills are targeted at undermining state programs and federal fiscal support for them.

We urge Governor Baker to push hard for legislative progress and to take all executive actions possible to advance the healthcare priorities of Massachusetts to serve the basic needs of our citizens— if not as a model for other governors and states as well.

Specifically,

- We ask that Governor Baker demonstrate his leadership by expressing his support for the healthcare "benchmark" bills being discussed by our legislators on Beacon Hill (SB.610 & HB.596 "Act[s] to ensure effective health care cost control");

and

- In his proposed budget plan to move 140,000 people from MassHealth to the Health Connector, we ask that Governor Baker support efforts to mitigate the differences in the two plans that have disruptive effects on families (coverage, eligible providers, & co-pays).

Thank you for all that you do for our Commonwealth.

Pete Tasker
Minuteman Indivisible Healthcare Team