



## National Association of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

159 Burgin Parkway  
Quincy, MA 02169

617.376.0220

August 20, 2009

Dolores L. Mitchell  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission  
P.O. Box 8747  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director Mitchell:

I have received your August 12 letter wherein our request that the GIC hold an off-cycle open enrollment is flatly rejected.

First, it's my understanding that the *commission*, not the commission's executive director, makes decisions on matters such as re-opening enrollment. The commission has not met since I sent my initial letter to GIC Chair Thomas Shields, et al, making it unlikely that a vote of the commission was taken. Furthermore, your letter suggests that you believe such decisions are in your purview and that you are entitled to make them. I'm left wondering what the full commission would have to say about our request, and I ask that the matter be properly put before them for a vote.

Second, to state that an increase of \$20.53 per week (over \$1,000 per year) doesn't justify waiver of IRS rules regarding plan changes because it doesn't amount to a "significant financial effect" indicates that you're completely out of touch with the struggles of Massachusetts families. I think many working families would be insulted by your flippant disregard for the financial tug-of-war they face every day to decide which bill might not get paid this month and which groceries they'll just have to do without.

Third, while I acknowledge that some disruption would be inevitable, I'm stunned that you would again treat so lightly the disruption to working families that premium increases are causing. Your commission exists to serve the needs of Massachusetts employees enrolled in GIC health care plans. A little disruption in the commission seems a small price to pay to alleviate some of the enormous disruption thrust upon the tens of thousands of families across the Commonwealth who participate in the GIC.

-over-

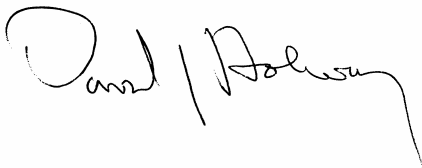


Fourth, your calling the premium increase a “5% increase” is just plain wrong. An increase from 15% to 20%, and from 20% to 25% is not a “5% increase”; it’s a 33% and 25% increase, respectively, and to frame it as anything else is disingenuous and misleading.

Last, to brush off the increase as acceptable because it’s not “exorbitant” compared to the rest of the market shows an utter lack of respect for the people you serve. Telling public employees essentially to “get over it” because other people might have it worse, just isn’t good enough.

It is my hope that the full commission will take up this matter and carefully consider our request for off-cycle open enrollment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Holway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line separating the first and last names.

David J. Holway  
National President

cc: Governor Deval Patrick  
Thomas Shields, Chair  
Richard Waring, Vice Chair  
Harris Berman, MD  
Theron R. Bradley  
Nonnie S. Burnes, Commissioner of Insurance, Designee Suzanne Bailey  
Stephen Chandler  
David M. Cutler  
John M. Enriquez  
David Handy  
Karen Hathaway  
Richard Kelliher  
Leslie A. Kirwan, Secretary of Administration and Finance  
Designee, Mary Ann Bradley  
Mark P. Kritzman  
Anne M. Paulsen  
Paul F. Toner