

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker
Massachusetts House of Representative
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Charles A. Murphy, Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo & Chairman Murphy:

We, the undersigned Representatives write to you today to urge that the House make no changes to the current health insurance premium contribution percentages for state employees.

As you know, the Governor has proposed a three tiered health insurance premium split for state workers. This would be a significant sacrifice for the majority of state workers and their families. Most workers would experience a 67% increase in their health insurance. For example, for a typical worker choosing a family plan this amounts up to \$179 more per month depending on the plan selected or an annual pay cut of up to \$2148!

In addition, a majority of state employee unions have agreed to contracts giving their members a 0% raise for at least one year. Adopting the Governor's health insurance proposal will amount to a significant pay cut for workers who are already doing their part to help solve this fiscal crisis.

We have several concerns with this proposal. First, income is not a fair way to determine one's ability to pay. Salary is just one of several factors (salary, housing, loans, number of children, etc.). Second, state employees pay more for their health insurance every year. Between rising premiums and exorbitant co-pays and deductibles, state employees are paying more out of pocket than ever. Third, this proposal will hurt the recruitment and retention of valuable state employees.

We respectfully ask that our views on this matter be reflected in the FY'10 state budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh

State Representatives who have signed onto Rep. Marty Walsh's health insurance letter:

John F. Quinn
Joseph R. Driscoll
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
Paul Kujawski
Michael F. Rush
Michael Brady
James J. O'Day
Sean Garballey
Frank Smizik
Carlo Basile
Timothy Toomey
Brian Wallace
Carl Sciortino
David B. Sullivan
Pam Richardson
John J. Binienda
Robert J. Nyman
Joyce A. Spiliotis
Lida E. Harkins
William Lantigua
Matthew C. Patrick, 3rd. Barnstable
Thomas Stanley
Rosemary Sandlin
John Fresolo
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
Smitty Pignatelli
Mark V. Falzone
Denise Provost
Christine E. Canavan
Antonio F. D. Cabral
Cleon Turner
William G. Greene, Jr.
David M. Nagle
Bill Bowles
Brian Ashe
John H. Rogers
James R. Miceli
Demetrius J. Atsalis
Colleen M. Garry
Anne M. Gobi
Geraldo Alicea
Walter E. Timilty
William C. Galvin
Christopher J. Donelan
Jim Dwyer

A. Stephen Tobin
Timothy R. Madden
Kate Hogan
Thomas Calter
Michael J. Rodrigues
Joseph F. Wagner
Katherine Clark
David L. Flynn
Christopher Fallon
Paul McMurtry
Steve Walsh
Louis L. Kafka
Mike Costello
Jim Cantwell
Chris Speranzo
Angelo M. Scaccia
Sean Curran
James Welch
Jen Callahan
Kevin Murphy
Ruth Balser
Jason Lewis
Kevin Honan
James Fagan
Allen McCarthy
Eugene O'Flaherty
Robert M. Koczera
Linda Dorcena Forry
Alice Wolfe
Marie St. Fleur
Steven D'Amico
Jennifer Benson
Stephen R. Canessa
Lori A. Ehrlich
Bob Rice
Kevin Murphy
Tom Golden
John Fernandes
Geraldine Creedon
Denis E. Guyer
Kevin Aguiar
Michael F. Kane