

February 5, 2007

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo  
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman DeLeo:

We are writing to respectfully advise you on a matter of great importance to the health and safety of our communities, workplaces, and environment. We represent a broad spectrum of organizations and agencies working for a healthy Massachusetts.

As you draft your budget recommendations, we urge you incorporate all of the FY06 supplemental funding made available for the Department of Public Health in FY07 into the FY08 budget. The DPH budget for FY07 is \$513.6 million, compared to \$434.7 million in FY06. Over *half* of the \$78.9 million increase in this year's budget for DPH is from supplemental appropriations that were made in FY06 to be spent in FY07, many part of the Chapter 58 health care reform.

These supplemental appropriations made possible much needed, if partial, restorations for a wide range of valuable disease prevention and treatment programs, as well as critical improvements in our public health infrastructure. It is essential to consider this funding part of the DPH base in order to avoid another *de facto* round of damaging program cuts in FY08.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

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