June 28, 2012

Senate President Therese Murray
Chairman Richard Moore
Chairman Anthony Petruccelli
Leader Brue Tarr
Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo
Chairman Steven Walsh
Leader Ronald Mariano
Representative Jay Barrows

RE: Prevention and Wellness Trust – Conference Committee Priorities

Dear Madame President, Mr. Speaker, Chairman Moore, Chairman Walsh, Chairman Petruccelli, Leader Mariano, Leader Tarr, and Representative Barrows:

We appreciate the leadership and members of both the House and Senate for your commitment to addressing health care costs through ambitious payment reform legislation. In particular, we applaud both chambers for including a new Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund as a central part of payment reform legislation. The Trust is a critical component of payment reform that will lower premiums by
preventing people from developing the costly health conditions that are driving up our health care costs - conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

As you deliberate a Conference Committee bill, we urge you to ensure that the Prevention and Wellness Trust will be successful in reducing health care costs, by ensuring sufficient funding is available to achieve a positive return on investment.

**We ask your support to dedicate adequate and sustained funding to the Prevention and Wellness Trust – a minimum of $100 million over 5 years**, as provided for in the Senate bill.

This is essential if we want to impact enough people to achieve the promise of reduced health care costs. Data shows that with adequate and sustained investment, prevention programs can generate a positive return on investment – as much as $450 million in savings within 5 years in Massachusetts, according to data from the Urban Institute.

Thank you once again for your leadership on health care reform and your support for the vital role of prevention.

Sincerely,

Veronica Turner, Executive Vice President, Massachusetts Division, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Suzanne Curry, Coordinator, Affordable Care Today!! Coalition

Rebecca Haag, President & CEO, AIDS Action Committee

Michael P. Cahill, Executive Director, Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs

Marc Hymovitz, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, American Cancer Society, New England Division

David Alper, President - Eastern New England Board, American Diabetes Association

Katie King, Director, Health Promotion & Public Policy for Massachusetts, American Lung Association of the Northeast

Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO, The Boston Foundation

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, Med, Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission

Roxanne Reddington-Wilde and Elmer Freeman, Chairs, Disparities Action Network
Daniel Lesser, Executive Director, Essex County Community Organization

Rev. Burns Stanfield, President, Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Executive Director, Health Care For All

Janice B. Yost, Ed.D., President, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

Ray Considine, President and CEO, Health Resources in Action

Paul S. Grogan, Valerie Fleishman, and Ranch Kimball, Co-Chairs, Healthy People/Healthy Economy Coalition

Sheila Decter, Executive Director, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action

Lisa Renee Holderby-Fox, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

Cathleen Haggerty, Executive Director, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Susan H. Servais, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Council

James W. Hunt, Jr., PhD, President & CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Maddie Ribble, Director of Policy and Communications, Massachusetts Public Health Association

Marc Draisen, Executive Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Stephen Shestakofsky, Executive Director, Tobacco Free Mass

Kristina Egan, Director, Transportation for Massachusetts