

June 28, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker
State House Rom 356

The Honorable Brian S. Dempsey, House Chair
State House, Room 243

Dear Mr. Speaker and Chairman Dempsey:

We are writing to respectfully request your support preventing elderly waiting lists for state home care by amending the FY17 Supplemental Budget (H.4506) to include available FEDERAL COMMUNITY FIRST (CF) Trust Fund dollars in the basic home care account (line item 9110-1630).

Governor Baker included language under item 9110-1630 in his supplemental budget, H.4506, adding federal dollars to the account, but not changing the bottom line. As a result, there are will be waiting lists for home care in the Commonwealth in FY17. We support an amendment adding \$3m in federal CF Trust Funds to the home care purchased services account to prevent any waiting lists in the home care account. We also support language that reduces the percentage of state funds needed in this line item from 98.5% to 95.7% and increases the federal percentage from 1.5% in the FY17 conference committee report to 4.3%. In this scenario, federal funding is used to raise the basic home care account to avoid waiting lists at no new cost to the state.

This amendment keeps the state appropriation for home care at \$101,032,031, the same as in the FY17 Conference Committee report. The Governor adds \$5,538,000 in CF Trust Fund money, most of which he uses to lower the state appropriations, but his use of CF Trust Fund demonstrates that there is at least \$5.5m in the CF Trust. The requested amendment would use \$4.5m of that federal money to lift the bottom line by \$3m net. This additional appropriation is anticipated to prevent home care waiting lists with no new state net cost above the Conference Committee level

The proposed amendment is attached for your reference. We urge you once more to adopt this critical change to line item 9110-1630 in the FY17 Supplemental Budget.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Stanley
9th Middlesex

James J. Dwyer
30th Middlesex

Paul McMurtry
11th Norfolk

Jonathan Hecht
29th Middlesex

Dennis A. Rosa
4th Worcester

Chris Walsh
6th Middlesex

Paul R. Heroux
2nd Bristol

John J. Lawn
10th Middlesex

Brian A. Joyce
Norfolk, Bristol & Plymouth

Bruce J. Ayers
1st Norfolk

Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex

John C. Velis
4th Hampden

Paul Brodeur
32nd Middlesex

Gailanne M. Cariddi
1st Berkshire

Christine P. Barber
34th Middlesex