The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Health Policy Commission
Two Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 979-1400

September 5, 2013

Mr. Carl Valente
Town Manager
Town of Lexington
1625 Massachusetts Ave
Lexington, MA 02320

Dear Mr. Valente:

The Health Policy Commission (HPC), in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), is required by state law to hold annual public hearings concerning health care cost trends in the Commonwealth. (See the Notice of Public Hearing attached as "Exhibit A."). G.L. c. 6D §8 requires the HPC to identify a representative sample of municipal leaders as witnesses for the hearing. In accordance with these provisions, the Town of Lexington has been identified as a witness and is hereby requested to submit written testimony in response to the questions of the HPC in "Exhibit B."

Your assistance and active participation in this hearing process will assist the HPC in preparing its annual report on statewide spending trends, including underlying factors contributing to growth and strategies to increase the efficiency of the Commonwealth's health care system.

In summary, the Town of Lexington is required to electronically submit to HPC written testimony, signed under the pains and penalties of perjury, responding to the areas of inquiry identified on the attached "Exhibit B" on or before the close of business on Monday, September 30, 2013.

The written testimony should be submitted to HPC-Testimony@state.ma.us. Any and all written testimony will be a public record and will be posted on the HPC's website at www.mass.gov/hpc.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

David Seltz
Executive Director

CC: Stuart Altman, Ph.D., Chair, Health Policy Commission
CC: Thomas O'Brien, Chief, Health Care Division, Office of the Attorney General
CC: Áron Boros, Executive Director, Center for Health Information and Analysis

Enclosures:
Exhibit A: Notice of Hearing
Exhibit B: Instructions and HPC Questions for Written Testimony

Exhibit A

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6D, §8, the Health Policy Commission, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and the Center for Health Information and Analysis, will hold a public hearing on health care cost trends. The hearing will examine health care provider, provider organization and private and public health care payer costs, prices and cost trends, with particular attention to factors that contribute to cost growth within the Commonwealth's health care system.

Scheduled hearing dates and location:

Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 9:00 AM
Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 9:00 AM
University of Massachusetts Boston Campus Center
Third Floor, Ballrooms B and C
100 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125

Time-permitting, the HPC will accept oral testimony from members of the public beginning at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, October 2. Any person who wishes to testify may sign up to offer brief comments on a first-come, first-served basis when the hearing commences on October 1.

Members of the public may also submit written testimony. Written comments will be accepted until October 11, 2013 and should be submitted electronically to HPC-Testimony@state.ma.us, or, if comments cannot be submitted electronically, sent by mail, post-marked no later than October 11, 2013, to the Health Policy Commission, Two Boylston Street, 6th floor, Boston, MA 02116, attention Lois H. Johnson.

Please note that all written and oral testimony provided by witnesses or the public may be posted on the HPC's website: www.mass.gov/hpc.

The HPC encourages all interested parties to attend the hearing. For driving and public transportation directions, please visit: http://www.umb.edu/the_university/getting_here/directions. If you are driving, please park in the Bayside Lot, 200 Mt. Vernon Street at the former Bayside Expo site (cost: $6). Free shuttle service runs every 5-7 minutes from the Bayside Lot to the Campus Center. If you are taking public transportation, UMass Boston runs a free shuttle service from JFK/UMass Station (which serves both the Red Line and Old Colony Line) to the Campus Center. The trip normally takes less than 10 minutes.

If you require disability-related accommodations for this hearing, please contact Kelly Mercer at (617) 979-1420 or by email Kelly.A.Mercer@state.ma.us a minimum of two weeks prior to the hearing so that we can accommodate your request.

For more information, including details about the agenda, expert and market participant panelists, testimony and presentations, please check the Annual Cost Trends Hearing section of the HPC's website, www.mass.gov/hpc. Materials will be posted regularly as the hearing dates approach.

Exhibit B: Instructions and HPC Questions for Written Testimony

Instructions:

On or before the close of business on September 30, 2013, electronically submit **in both PDF and Microsoft Word format** written testimony signed under the pains and penalties of perjury to: HPC-Testimony@state.ma.us. Please submit any data tables included in your response in **Microsoft Excel or Access format**.

Please begin all responses with a brief summary not to exceed 120 words. If necessary, please include supporting testimony or documentation in an Appendix. If your organization uses an 'other', 'miscellaneous', or similar category in any response, please explain what such a category includes.

The testimony must contain a statement that the signatory is legally authorized and empowered to represent the named organization for the purposes of this testimony, and that the testimony is signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. An electronic signature will be sufficient for this submission.

If you have any questions regarding this process or regarding the following questions, please contact: Lois Johnson at Lois.Johnson@state.ma.us or (617) 979-1405.

Questions:

11. What has been your experience participating in the Group Insurance Commission? What are your observations of health care cost trends before and after your participation?
12. What methods, if any, does your organization use to encourage employees to use high value (high quality, low cost) providers? What has been the effectiveness of these efforts?
13. What methods, if any, do you use to educate employees about tiered and limited network plans offered by the Group Insurance Commission? What has been the reaction of your employees to these products?
14. Please identify any additional health care cost drivers that you believe should be examined in subsequent years.
15. Please provide any additional comments or observations you believe will help to inform our hearing and our final recommendations.