



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION
50 MILK STREET, 8TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
(617) 979-1400

STUART H. ALTMAN
CHAIR

DAVID M. SELTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 15, 2016

Mr. Keith Hovan
President and CEO
Southcoast Hospitals Group
101 Page Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mr. Hovan:

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC), in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General and the Center for Health Information and Analysis, is required by state law to host the [Annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearing](#). The 2016 Hearing will be held on October 17 and 18. The Hearing serves as a public examination into the trends and drivers of the Commonwealth's health care costs through the engagement of experts and presentation of public testimony.

The HPC has identified Southcoast Hospitals Group as an organization required to submit pre-filed written testimony in anticipation of the 2016 Hearing. Over the past four years, pre-filed testimony has afforded the HPC an opportunity to engage more deeply with market participants. Under state law, the HPC requires pre-filed testimony from a cross-section of health care market participants, including providers (e.g., acute care hospitals, community health centers, physician groups), health plans, and municipalities. All written testimony is publicly posted on our website and used to inform ongoing policy development work and promote public transparency.

Southcoast Hospitals Group's written testimony should be submitted to HPC-Testimony@state.ma.us by **September 2, 2016**. All testimony will be a public record. Southcoast Hospitals Group should expect to receive an email in August indicating whether it will be called to provide in-person testimony at the 2016 Hearing.

Your assistance and active participation in the 2016 Hearing will contribute to the ongoing public dialogue about how to develop a more affordable, effective, and accountable health care system. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Seltz".

David Seltz
Executive Director

CC: Karen Tseng, Chief, Health Care Division, Office of the Attorney General
CC: Steve McCabe, Acting Director, Center for Health Information and Analysis