



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION
50 MILK STREET, 8TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
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STUART H. ALTMAN
CHAIR

DAVID M. SELTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 13, 2018

Mr. David Phelps
President and CEO
Berkshire Health Systems
725 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Mr. Phelps:

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) hosts the **Health Care Cost Trends Hearing** each year to examine the drivers of health care costs, identify particular challenges, and discuss opportunities for improving care and reducing costs in the Commonwealth's health care system. This year's hearing will be held on October 16 and 17 at Suffolk University Law School in Boston.

This prominent two-day public hearing features live, in-person testimony from top health care executives, industry leaders, and government officials. Questions are posed from Massachusetts and national health care experts about the state's performance under the Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark, health care cost drivers, and other health care reform efforts.

Since 2012, pre-filed written testimony has afforded the HPC an opportunity to engage more deeply with Massachusetts health care market participants. State law requires the HPC to seek testimony from a cross-section of the market, including providers (e.g., acute care hospitals, community health centers, physician groups), health plans, and municipalities. All written testimony is a public record, posted on the HPC's website (www.mass.gov/HPC), and used to inform ongoing policy development work and promote public transparency.

The HPC has identified Berkshire Health Systems as an organization required to submit pre-filed written testimony in anticipation of the 2018 hearing. The questions are attached. Your organization's response should be saved as a Word document and submitted to HPC-Testimony@mass.gov by **Friday, September 14, 2018**. Please expect to receive an email in the coming weeks indicating whether your organization will be called upon to provide in-person testimony.

Your active participation in this process contributes 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 black ink, appearing to read "David Seltz".

David Seltz
Executive Director

CC: Eric Gold, Deputy Chief, Health Care Division, Office of the Attorney General
CC: Ray Campbell, Executive Director, Center for Health Information and Analysis