ATTACHMENT E

July 26, 2018

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning to you for amendment Sections 39, 52, 54, 56, 58, 59, 60 and 112 of House Bill No. 4800, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2019 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

These sections would eliminate the “family cap” within the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (“TAFDC”) program. Sections 53, 55 and 57 of the bill contain other reforms in the TAFDC program, which are designed to improve family support while increasing the incentives for TAFDC recipients to work, and I am proud to sign those with the budget today.

Eliminating the “family cap” without other accompanying changes could have the perverse effect of reducing incentives for TAFDC recipients to get back to work, and cause existing inequities in the TAFDC program to persist and expand. To fix one such inequity, I propose to count adult Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in the eligibility calculation for TAFDC. This change aligns with the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and treats SSI the same as other types of income – like veteran’s or retirement, survivors, and disability insurance (RSDI) benefits – that are already counted in determining eligibility and benefit level.

For these reasons, I recommend striking sections 39, 52, 54, 56, 58, 59, 60 and 112 and replacing them with the following language:-

SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 2 of chapter 118 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, aid shall be provided for each child without regard to whether the child was conceived or born after the parent began receiving transitional aid to families with dependent children under this chapter.

SECTION 2. Said section 2 of said chapter 118 is hereby further amended by adding the following sentence:-

The department shall treat adult social security income as countable income for purposes of determining eligibility and benefit levels for transitional aid to families with dependent children.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, as amended by section 21 of chapter 158 of the acts of 2014, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of “Child of record”.

SECTION 4.  Said section 110 of said chapter 5 is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (c).

SECTION 5. Clause (3) of subsection (e) of said section 110 of said chapter 5, as amended by section 25 of chapter 158 of the acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by striking out the words “of record under the age of two years or any child other than the child of record who is under the age of three months” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- until the age of 2 years.

SECTION 6.  The first paragraph of subsection (j) of said section 110 of said chapter 5, as most recently amended by section 27 of chapter 158 of the acts of 2014, is hereby further amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The program shall require that the head of household in each family, or both parents in a 2-parent family, participate in work-related activities for: (i) at least 20 hours each week if the youngest child in the family is between the age of 2 and the age at which the child must attend school full time; or (ii) 30 hours each week if the youngest child in the family has reached the age at which full-time schooling is mandatory.

SECTION 7. Said subsection (j) of said section 110 of said chapter 5, is hereby further amended by striking out the last paragraph, as appearing in section 528 of chapter 26 of the acts of 2003.

SECTION 8. Section 130 of said chapter 5 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 6, the words “the ineligibility of children born after the child of record for assistance;”.

SECTION 9. Sections 1 to 8, inclusive, shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

Governor