ATTACHMENT F

December 11, 2020

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 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Section 90 of House Bill No. 5164, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2021 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.”

Section 90 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to promulgate regulations to allow student nurses, recently graduated student nurses, and certified diabetes care and education specialists to administer medication to campers at medical specialty camps. While I support expanding the list of persons able to administer medication to campers, the safe administration of controlled substances requires appropriate clinical skill, training, and supervision. As a result, the amendment below proposes to limit the scope of the section to the administration of medication by student nurses, recently graduated student nurses, and diabetes care and education specialists. Additionally, the amendment would require DPH to study the risks and benefits of authorizing medical specialty camp staff trained under the supervision of a practitioner to administer medication to campers and to report on its findings by the close of the calendar year.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 90 be amended by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

SECTION 90. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public health, pursuant to its authority under subsection (g) of section 7 of chapter 94C of the General Laws, shall promulgate regulations to allow: (i) student nurses and recently graduated student nurses, as included in the definition of “nurse” in section 1 of said chapter 94C and (ii) certified diabetes care and education specialists in good standing with the Certification Board for Diabetes Education and Care, to administer medication to campers at medical specialty camps as defined in the state sanitary code. The department shall study the risks and benefits associated with authorizing medical specialty camp staff trained under the supervision of a practitioner as defined in section 1 of said chapter 94C of the General Laws to administer medication and shall report on its findings to the chairs of the joint committee on public health by December 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

 Governor