

ATTACHMENT G

August 9, 2023

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 87 of House Bill No. 4040, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2024 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 87 requires MassHealth ground ambulance services provided to Fee-For-Service and Managed Care Plan members who are also Medicare eligible to be paid at the Medicare rate. I support the aim of this section, as emergency medical services providers, including those serving our municipalities, are under financial strain due to significant staffing shortages, and this initiative will increase federally reimbursable funding for ambulance transports. However, I am returning Section 87 to state expressly that the requirement set forth therein is subject to federal approval. Requiring federal approval is standard for any amendment to MassHealth services, enables MassHealth to maximize federally reimbursable expenditures, and ensures a sustainable MassHealth program.

For these reasons, I recommend that the bill be amended by striking out Section 87 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

SECTION 87. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary and subject to federal approval, all ambulance ground transportation provided to MassHealth fee-for-service

and managed care plan members who are also Medicare eligible shall be paid at the applicable Medicare rate.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura T. Healey
Governor