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**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

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ATTACHMENT K

July 17, 2017

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 Section 138 of House Bill No. 3800, "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2018 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 138 establishes a commission, chaired by the commissioner of public health, to evaluate ways to increase access and promote the utilization of public health data, specifically data contained within the trauma registry, to study the effects of healthcare inequality.

While I support the objectives of this proposal, the creation of a commission is not necessary, nor an effective use of limited resources at the department of public health. Rather than establishing a special commission, the department of public health is committed to reporting the requested analysis to the Legislature by the December 31, 2018 deadline contained in Section 138.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 138 be amended by striking out the text and inserting in place thereof the following text:-

SECTION 138. The department of public health shall evaluate ways to utilize data collected from the trauma registry to: promote public health, study the patterns and impact of healthcare inequality and develop support programs to meet the unmet needs of residents of the commonwealth affected by healthcare inequality and their families. The department may consider methods to encourage partnerships with academic medical centers and schools of public health to analyze and interpret existing data collected by the commonwealth, including data collected through the trauma registry, to ascertain geographical differences in healthcare access and quality. Said evaluation shall include costs associated with any proposed uses or analytics of data.

The department shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations together with any recommendations for legislation with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before December 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being the most prominent part.

Charles D. Baker  
Governor