ATTACHMENT M

July 8, 2016

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 148 of House Bill No. 4450, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2017 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 148 requires a one-time transfer from three community health center trust funds and the mental health information system trust, totaling $7.6 million, to the General Fund. By letter dated May 13, 2016, the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F) informed the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means that A&F would be requesting this transfer for fiscal year 2016, pursuant to section 13A of chapter 29 of the General Laws. Thus, for fiscal year 2017, Section 148 should be amended to permit the transfer of any additional unexpended balances from these trusts, as deemed necessary by the Secretary of A&F and upon her written request.

For this reason, I recommend that Section 148 be amended by striking out the text and inserting in place thereof the text:-

SECTION 148. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, upon receiving a written request from the secretary of administration and finance, the comptroller shall transfer to the General Fund all or part of the unexpended balance from the following funds not later than June 30, 2017: (i) Mental Health Information System Trust Fund; (ii) the H.C. Solomon Mental Health Center Trust Fund; (iii) the Cape Cod and Islands Mental Health and Retardation Center Trust Fund; and (iv) the Quincy Mental Health Center Trust Fund.

Respectfully submitted,