ATTACHMENT P

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 179 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 179 directs the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to develop a marketing campaign for community hospitals that promotes their value as a low cost, high quality option. The language authorizes the HPC to spend up to $500,000 from the Distressed Hospital Trust Fund on that campaign. I support the goals of promoting high value health care options. But to maximize such efforts with limited public resources, I am recommending that participating community hospitals provide matching funds.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 179 be amended by striking out the text and inserting in place thereof the following text:-

SECTION 179. The health policy commission, in consultation with community hospitals, shall develop a marketing campaign to show the high value of community hospitals and assist eligible community hospitals in promoting the cost and quality benefits of seeking care in local settings to patients and employers. A community hospital will be deemed eligible for assistance if it provides matching funds. The commission shall direct not more than $500,000 from the Distressed Hospital Trust Fund established in section 2GGGG of chapter 29 of the General Laws to fund the development and implementation of the marketing campaign, provided that any expenditures by the commission be contingent on the provision of matching funds by one or more community hospitals.

Respectfully submitted,