ATTACHMENT R

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 181 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 181 requires MassHealth to review and report on the feasibility of covering spouses as caregivers, including identifying any necessary changes that would need to be made under the current state plan and 1115 demonstration waiver. The section requires a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2016. This reporting deadline does not provide sufficient time to complete this study and account for potential changes under the anticipated 1115 demonstration waiver.

 For this reason, I recommend that Section 181 be amended by striking out, in line 1610, the words “December 1, 2016”, and inserting in place thereof the following words:-December 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,