



**The Office of State Representative Denise C. Garlick
Chair, House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading**

State House | Boston, MA 02133

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August 19, 2021

Lara Szent-Gyorgyi, Director
Determination of Need Program
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Boston Children's Hospital Needham - Determination of Need application

Dear Director Szent-Gyorgyi,

I write as the elected State Representative for the 13th Norfolk District communities of Needham, Dover, and Medfield in support of the Determination of Need application filed Boston Children's Hospital to build a new satellite location in Needham. Boston Children's Hospital is a world-renowned leader in children's care and this location will provide services for pediatric patients in Needham and throughout the MetroWest who need ambulatory care and services.

It is critically important that children have access to healthcare options in places close to their homes. Nearby access allows kids to spend less time commuting to appointments, which means they have more time for school and play. A new, comprehensive ambulatory surgical center would be a welcome addition to our community and will also give our local health care workers new opportunities to work closer to home. With its proximity to the highway, this site will serve children from across Massachusetts and give them new options as they seek the care that they need.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this new location. This location is going to contribute to access to quality health care for kids throughout Massachusetts and provide integrated services along the continuum of care for this patient population for years to come. Boston Children's Hospital is a leader in pediatric care and we are proud to host them in Needham. We appreciate your time and respectfully request your approval of this project plan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Denise C. Garlick".

Denise Garlick
State Representative
13th Norfolk District

Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

September 9, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing to support Boston Children's Hospital's (BCH) proposal to modernize its existing facilities in Waltham and Weymouth and build an ambulatory surgical center in Needham. I believe this project will greatly benefit children, families, and communities across our state and improve access for patients seeking lifesaving or life-changing care.

I am the mother of two children, Nora (7), and Colin (5), who have received treatment from BCH both at the Longwood site and the Waltham site. Nora has only received physical therapy from Waltham, but Colin has had an extensive relationship with BCH over the course of his short life. Colin has severe hemophilia, a rare genetic bleeding disorder without a cure. Without treatment, people with severe hemophilia have spontaneous bleeds, bleed longer from injury, can have a permanent disability from bleeding into joints, and even die. Since his diagnosis, Colin has had three surgeries at BCH, four inpatient admissions, over a dozen visits to the Emergency Department (ED), and I have lost count of the number of visits with his care team and the infusion center. Throughout his journey, I have felt truly grateful to have the support of our amazing team at BCH.

People with hemophilia are typically diagnosed at birth, but as we had no family history, he was not. It wasn't until he was 17 months, when frightened by the unexplained bruising on his little body, and unconvinced by our pediatrician's assurances that "some kids just bruise" that he was diagnosed at BCH. While we were tremendously anxious about what the future would hold for him, we were grateful to have a diagnosis and felt confident that we had the right team to help us navigate his care at BCH's Boston Hemophilia Center. The Boston Hemophilia Center is a federally recognized comprehensive Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC). HTCs provide comprehensive treatment and care for people with hemophilia. Colin's integrated care team includes, a hematologist, a nurse practitioner, a nurse educator, a social worker, a research assistant, and a physical therapist. Colin sees the entire team annually for a half-day comprehensive visit and works with members of the team as needs arise throughout the year.

The couple years that followed his diagnosis were hard. Colin was quickly diagnosed with an inhibitor, which meant that his body rejected the life-saving medications. Keeping our families' wishes for Colin at the forefront, his care team worked tirelessly to find a treatment protocol that would work for him. We are thrilled that Colin's body now accepts his medication.

I have been incredibly impressed by how responsive and communicative the team has been throughout our time with BCH. Our hematologist, Dr. Stacey Croteau, has especially gone above

and beyond to build a relationship with Colin and provide exceptional care. For example, whenever we show up at the ED (even if it is late at night) I get a call from her on my cell phone. Further, she has, on more than one occasion, gone out of her way to check in on us during an admission even when she wasn't on service. She has even dropped into the infusion center just to say hello and see how Colin is doing. This level of attention and care is remarkable and emblematic of the dedication of the BCH staff to truly honor every child they treat.

I am pleased to share that Colin had a very successful surgery last week. Prior to the surgery we met with Child Life specialist who helped prepare us for the procedure so we felt comfortable and confident going in. During the stay, everyone we met with from the medical professionals, to the staff at the Hale Center for Families, to the entertainment team at Seacrest Studios, made Colin feel special, like he was a little celebrity. When they discharged him after only one night, he was disappointed and asked whether he could stay on his "vacation for just one more night." I can't imagine another place where kids would enjoy their stay at the hospital. I think it speaks to the compassion, professionalism, and commitment of the BCH staff to the patient experience.

In addition to expanding access to BCH for more families like mine at the proposed sites, I am particularly interested in the new infusion center that BCH hopes to build in Waltham. Colin requires a daily infusion through an implanted port-a-cath device to keep him safe and healthy. While we are able to manage most of his care at home, we make regular trips to the infusion center at the Longwood for lab work and consultation. Fortunately, his condition has improved significantly, however, there was a 2.5 year period during which we were at the infusion center at least monthly. Although we live equi-distant from Longwood and Waltham, it is significantly less stressful to visit the Waltham campus. It seems like regardless of how much time I leave to get to Colin's appointment at Longwood, we always hit more traffic than I expect, and I find myself running late. By the time I get to the appointment, I am stressed and tired and, as much as I try to cover it, Colin can sense my anxiety, which influences his attitude towards the appointment. The traffic and parking are significantly easier in Waltham which allows us to begin the medical visit from a calmer, more prepared place. The free parking is helpful as well, especially as it adds up for families with frequent medical visits. Although, it would mean that Dr. Croteau couldn't just drop in to say hello, it would be wonderful to have the option to have Colin receive his infusion care at Waltham.

Because of our relationship with BCH, Colin received the correct diagnosis, exceptional and personalized care from a comprehensive and integrated care team, and excellent results. Colin's extensive interactions with the medical system could easily have led to psychological trauma or been considered an adverse childhood experience, but because we were lucky enough to have access to BCH, Colin is thriving. It is my hope that this expansion will provide more families with the opportunity to experience the incredible care that our family has been blessed to receive at BCH.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Kate Bazinsky
53 Bow Road
Newton, MA 02459



City of Quincy, Massachusetts
OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL

September 3, 2021

Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Determination of Need Program,

We wish to voice our strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's expansion and improvement plans across the state, with a particular interest in their proposal to expand services in Weymouth.

As elected leaders in Quincy, we know first-hand how critical Boston Children's footprint outside of Boston is for the families we serve, as well as families throughout Massachusetts. As the premier pediatric hospital in the country, their ambulatory centers are an essential part of ensuring as many children in need as possible gain access to the range of specialties, services, and opportunities that Children's provides – many of which are not available elsewhere.

We know how deeply impacted our constituents have been by the existence of the Weymouth facility, which allows families to see their doctors while lessening the burden of long-commutes, significant time of work, expensive parking, unreliable public transit, and the other roadblocks they face in accessing the Boston campus. For children with complex medical needs – who require frequent visits and coordination across a large care team – this accessibility is absolutely essential to helping them and their families navigate treatment.

To date, Boston Children's has been a tremendous community partner across the entire South Shore, and we have no doubt that an expanded footprint would only broaden and deepen the positive impact they can make for the families that we represent.

We are proud to support this project and respectfully urge your expeditious approval.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Mahoney
Councillor At Large

Ian C. Cain
Ward Three Councillor

Charles J. Phelan, Jr.
Ward Five Councillor



Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

September 8, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing today to offer my strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's proposed expansion plans across Massachusetts. After nearly a decade of leadership at the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, I am confident the improvement plans in Waltham, in particular, will be a tremendous resource for the children and families that we serve.

For our students, Waltham BGC is a safe place to learn and grow – all while having fun. We provide a nurturing environment, caring staff, enriching programs and opportunities for success for children in our community, particularly those with some of the greatest needs. Throughout this work, I have seen firsthand what a difference access to affordable, trusted, and culturally competent care makes for the families that we serve. In that regard, Boston Children's existing Waltham facility has been an incredible asset for our community, giving local patients the chance to receive Boston Children's world-class treatment without navigating the complicated and often prohibitive trip into Boston. Expanding and upgrading the hospital's existing footprint to include more services means that more children in need will have an opportunity to receive this kind of care.

Most critically, I know that the current proposal's plan to expand pediatric psychiatric services in Waltham is essential not just to local families but to families across the state. The inadequacies of Massachusetts' existing behavioral health infrastructure are well-documented; and the acuity of these inadequacies for children, in particular, is a shameful reality for a state that prides itself on its health care ecosystem. The consequences of this lack of access to pediatric psychiatric and psychological care is something that we experience every day at Waltham BGC, with a student

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population that is more likely to experience trauma and less likely to receive treatment in response.

For all of these reasons, I am proud to support this project and urge the Program to offer its expeditious approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Young", written in a cursive style.

Erica Young
Executive Director
Waltham Boys & Girls Club

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#).



Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

September 8, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing today to voice my strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's proposed expansion plans across Massachusetts. Over several decades at Advocates, I have had the opportunity time and again to work with Boston Children's to ensure that kids facing profound life challenges are not just cared for but are treated with dignity and respect. I have seen firsthand the compassionate, culturally competent, and high-quality care that they deliver and believe Massachusetts should not hesitate to broaden their impact and reach wherever we can.

Advocates is a non-profit human services organization that serves more than 30,000 individuals, children, and families across Eastern and Central Massachusetts. We provide a broad range of services for people facing serious life challenges including addiction, autism, brain injuries, intellectual/developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, and substance use. Our approach honors individuals' and families' needs, wants, and goals. First, we listen. Then we work with the people we serve as full partners—that's part of our organizational promise. As a result, individuals and families facing serious challenges are empowered to achieve their goals and pursue their dreams.

Central to achieving our mission is collaboration with caring partners across the community to create solutions for better lives. For decades, Boston Children's has been one of most active, effective, and impactful collaborators, stepping in to provide needed treatment and support when no one else can or will. They echo our mission to treat patients as human beings and go above and beyond to meet families where they are.

I am confident that their expansion plans will allow this work to reach even more children in need. In particular, I know that the proposed expansion of psychiatric services at the Waltham facility will help begin to fill a dire need for pediatric behavioral health care in our state; one made only more acute by COVID-19.

I am proud to support this project and urge the Department's approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Diane E. Gould'.

Diane Gould, LICSW
President & CEO
Advocates
Framingham, MA



Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

September 9, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I wish to offer my strong support for Boston Children's proposed expansion plans across Massachusetts. I believe strongly that an expanded presence in the Weymouth community, in particular, would be a powerful resource for the immigrant families we serve.

Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI) is a non-profit that was created to improve the social, cultural, economic and civic lives of immigrants and their families in order to benefit Quincy and its neighboring communities. Through collaborations and partnerships, we provide culturally competent services, such as workforce development, adult education programs, youth development, and cultural events as well as information and referrals to public or other community organizations.

We see firsthand the challenges that many of our families have in accessing affordable, reliable, and culturally competent medical care. While many of our families rely on Boston Children's nation-leading doctors and services, dependence on the Boston facility can create numerous challenges, from long commutes to time off work for people who cannot afford it. In that regard, the existing Weymouth facility has been a great asset for South Shore families.

However, deep health care inequities still exist in the Commonwealth, and immigrant families often feel those most acutely. It is essential that we prioritize any effort that will help ensure Massachusetts' preeminent health care infrastructure is accessible to all who call our region home. Expanding Boston Children's to reach and serve more children in need should be an easy decision. I respectfully encourage the Department to offer the proposal its full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Chong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Philip Chong
President & CEO
Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.



Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

August 31, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program:

On behalf of the Waltham Partnership for Youth, I am writing to express our strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's plans to expand its services in Waltham. We serve children and families throughout Waltham, with a particular focus on high-school aged youth of color, immigrant youth, and youth from low-income households. As you are aware, the need for children's access to integrated pediatric care, especially mental and behavioral healthcare, is great.

Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) has been a key partner since our inception over 30 years ago. We have received financial support for mental health programs and services, we have had BCH clinicians provide pro bono services in the form of serving on panels and providing emotional support at events, and we have long benefitted from having thoughtful and dedicated BCH representatives serve on our Board of Directors. Through this work together, we have been able to ensure that more Waltham youth, especially youth of color and low-income youth, have greater access to services and information regarding their health and wellbeing. That said, we have also witnessed the exponential growth in the mental health needs of the youth we serve and there is perhaps no more urgent and important step we can take as a community than expanding the behavioral health supports available to our young people.

Additionally, as demonstrated through our own 2019 transportation study - [Waltham Rides Together](#), lack of transportation is a significant barrier facing the families that we serve, so we are especially pleased that families will have greater access to outpatient services in much more convenient locations.

We applaud the fact that Boston Children's is prioritizing the expansion of behavioral health services, and that they are undertaking these plans in a way that addresses the needs of underserved children and families, with a focus on increasing access. We are confident Boston Children's investments in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact that will benefit our community for many years to come. We strongly recommend that the Department of Public Health act favorably on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Clarence Richardson

Clarence Richardson

President, WPY Board of Directors

617 Lexington Street • Waltham, MA 02452 • [REDACTED]
www.walthampartnershipforyouth.org



City of Quincy, Massachusetts
OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL

Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

September 09, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I write to voice my strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's planned expansion in Weymouth and across Massachusetts. This is about much more than the positive impact that an expanded Boston Children's facility will have in the neighboring community that I serve – which it undoubtedly will and is reason enough for me to get behind this proposal.

But for me, it is also personal.

28 years ago, my baby sister was born with severe developmental disabilities. With that, came a host of related complications, from scoliosis to ear surgery to countless other scary, trying, and difficult health challenges. We were lucky in a way that words cannot quite capture that she was able to come into Boston Children's care from a very young age. Everything she has been able to do until this point has been thanks to them. They have helped her stay healthy and happy. They have made it possible for her to live a good and fulfilling life. And they have done that with a level of kindness and empathy that we may not always expect from big medical providers.

For my family, the attention, coordination, and dignity that we got from Boston Children's was particularly meaningful. My parents immigrated to this country at 19 years old and never looked back. My dad worked full-time as a small business owner to keep the family afloat. My mom stopped working after my sister was born to navigate her medical needs as well as raise three other children. We were lucky to have a large, extended family to lean on but ours was an extremely challenging journey. I am struck looking back at how much my parents carried on their shoulders, how hard they fought and worked to keep their – and our – heads above water.

Boston Children's made it easier. They treated my family with compassion and grace. They navigated language barriers with respect, making sure there was someone at the emergency room at two o'clock in the morning when we showed up who could explain to them what was happening and what my sister needed. When she turned 18, our insurance company started calling to say she was aging out of Boston Children's care and needed a transition plan. Her doctors and care team stood up for her. They made it clear she was in the best hands with them and that they would never send her away. To this day, she still relies on Boston Children's for her care.

My sister is healthy today. We are – and probably always will be – frequent fliers. Some months we go to Boston Children's multiple times, some months not at all. In that regard, the Weymouth location is a godsend. If Boston was the only option, we would make it work. After all these years, we would stop at nothing to get my sister the level of care and service she receives there. But it isn't always easy. The commute is long, the parking is hard, and though my sister is able to walk, it is complicated to physically get her to the city site. When we are able to go to Weymouth, it is all the easier. And ease is sweet relief to any family navigating complex medical needs; a small lift off tired shoulders.

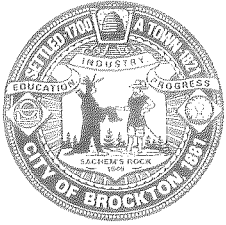
I know that expanding the existing Weymouth facility – as well as improving the center in Waltham and creating a brand-new one in Needham – would help more families access the care that mine was lucky to find. For us, Boston Children's is more than a care provider or a community partner. They have become family. And every child in need of care in this state should have access to that kind of support.

I am proud to give my full support to this project and strongly urge you to approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Liang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the bottom.

Nina Liang
City Council President
Quincy, Massachusetts



City Council

CITY OF BROCKTON

CITY HALL

45 School Street • Brockton, Massachusetts 02301

Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

August 17, 2021

Dear Determination of Need Program,

We write today in support of Boston Children's Hospital's expansion proposals in Weymouth, Waltham, and Needham. In particular, we strongly encourage you to approve the proposed expansion and improvement efforts at the hospital's existing Weymouth facility.

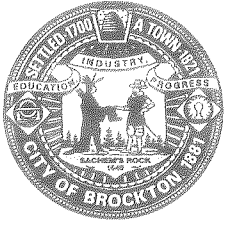
As elected leaders in Brockton, the Weymouth facility is an absolutely critical resource for the children and families that we represent. It provides access to the highest-quality care and a broad range of specialty services, without the inconveniences and challenges of a Boston location.

As representatives of a community that is already medically underserved, that is markedly more diverse than Massachusetts as a whole, and that faces a poverty rate significantly higher than the state average, access to the care that Boston Children's provides is essential to us. Our residents can least afford to take time off work, to navigate complicated public transit, or to pay for additional childcare and expensive parking. Additionally, the culturally competent care that Boston Children's provides is a lifeline for our community, ensuring the medical needs of our diverse population are met with compassion and respect.

Increasing Boston Children's footprint in Weymouth to include more services and specialties will only increase the number of children and families who can access this kind of care. We believe there are few greater priorities in our Commonwealth today than that kind of health care equity and access, and we respectfully urge the Department of Public Health to expeditiously approve this proposal.

Sincerely,


Councilor Jeffrey Thompson



City Council

CITY OF BROCKTON

CITY HALL

45 School Street • Brockton, Massachusetts 02301

Councilor John Lally

Councilor Rita Mendes

Councilor Moises Rodrigues



September 7, 2021

Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing today to offer my strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's proposed expansion plans in Waltham, Needham and Weymouth. I have spent nearly 15 years as the Director of Health & Wellness at Framingham Public Schools and seven years prior to that as a school nurse in the district. In these roles, I and my team of twenty two nurses and thirty three social workers have seen firsthand the tremendous impact Boston Children's Hospital has had on children facing unimaginable health challenges. I have also seen the profound need for more families to be able to access this kind of specialized care.

Framingham Public Schools serve a culturally and economically diverse student body, reflective of the city itself. This means our students face barriers that are familiar to any immigrant or working-class community in accessing reliable, affordable, and quality health care. For those families who depend on Boston Children's for speciality services or medically complex conditions, commuting into Boston for care can be difficult to the point of impossibility.

In that regard, Boston Children's Waltham facility has provided tremendous support. Expanding and improving it to include more specialties – and in particular expanding psychiatric services – will help reach even more families in need. Additionally, the creation of a new ambulatory center in Needham will give patients across MetroWest two options for closer to home care that avoids Boston traffic, commutes, parking, and public transit challenges.

For decades I have seen Boston Children's Hospital act as a compassionate provider, a trusted community partner, and a ceaseless advocate for patients most in need and most likely to fall through the cracks. Creating more access points for more families across Massachusetts is one of the single most effective things we could do when it comes to improving our health care system in this state and reaching the children I serve.

Sincerely,

Judith Styer, BSN, BA, RN, NCSN
Director of Health & Wellness

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELLNESS | 19 Flagg Dr., Framingham, MA 01702