



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Health Policy Commission  
Two Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116*

August 1, 2014

Mr. Keith Hovan  
President and CEO  
Southcoast Hospitals Group  
101 Page Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mr. Hovan:

The Health Policy Commission (HPC), in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) and the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), is required by state law to hold annual public hearings concerning health care cost trends in the Commonwealth. (See the Notice of Public Hearing attached as "Exhibit A.") G.L. c. 6D § 8 requires the HPC to identify a representative sample of health care providers and payers as witnesses for the hearing. In accordance with these provisions, Southcoast Hospitals Group has been identified as a witness and is hereby requested to submit written testimony in response to the questions of the HPC in "Exhibit B" and questions of the AGO in "Exhibit C."

Please note that the HPC will not consider your Pre-Filed Testimony responses in connection with the HPC's Community Hospital Acceleration, Revitalization, and Transformation (CHART) Phase 2 application process, which is ongoing.

In addition to the submission of written testimony, **you are also being called for oral testimony** on one or more dates of the hearing scheduled for October 6 and 7, 2014. You will receive further information regarding oral testimony in a separate correspondence.

The annual health care cost trends hearing is a public examination into the drivers of health care costs as well as the engagement of experts and witnesses to identify particular challenges and opportunities within the Commonwealth's health care system. For the first time, this year's hearing will focus on the state's performance under the health care cost growth benchmark. Your assistance and active participation in this hearing process will contribute to the on-going public dialogue about how to develop a more affordable, effective, and accountable health care system.

In summary, Southcoast Hospitals Group is required to:

1. electronically submit to HPC written testimony, signed under the pains and penalties of perjury, responding to the areas of inquiry identified on the attached "Exhibit B" and "Exhibit C" on or before the close of business on **Monday, September 8, 2014**; and
2. be prepared to appear at a public hearing to provide oral testimony at some time on October 6 and 7, 2014.

The written testimony should be submitted to [HPC-Testimony@state.ma.us](mailto:HPC-Testimony@state.ma.us). Any and all written testimony will be a public record and will be posted on the HPC's website at [www.mass.gov/hpc](http://www.mass.gov/hpc).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Seltz". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

David Seltz  
Executive Director

CC: Stuart Altman, Ph.D., Chair, Health Policy Commission  
CC: Margret Cooke, Acting Chief, Health Care Division, Office of the Attorney General  
CC: Áron Boros, Executive Director, Center for Health Information and Analysis