ATTACHMENT W

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 201 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 201 includes effective dates for two sections: 133 and 184. Because I have vetoed Section 184, the reference in Section 201 to an effective date for Section 184 is unnecessary. In addition, given the cost implications of the new mandated benefit related to Lyme Disease contained in sections 108, 111, 113 and 115, the commonwealth, employers, and insurers need time to assess and prepare for the fiscal impact of this proposal. An effective date of January 1, 2017, would allow the necessary time for those proposals, as I have proposed to amend them, to take effect.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 201 be amended by striking out, in line 1992, the figure “184” and inserting in place thereof the following figures:- 108, 111, 113 and 115.

Respectfully submitted,