

Open Letter to Massachusetts Legislative Leaders
**Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund Key to Addressing Poor Health,
Supporting Successful Health System Transformation**

September 17, 2019

Senator Cindy Friedman, Chair
Representative Jennifer Benson, Chair
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Please Include the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund in Health Care Legislation

Dear Chair Friedman and Chair Benson:

Since the passage of the last major health reform legislation in Massachusetts in 2012 (Chapter 224), the Commonwealth has staked out new and aggressive strategies to improve health outcomes, address health care costs, and combat alarming health inequities across race, ethnicity, and income. The Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF), established in Chapter 224, has been a key part of our state's multi-pronged approach, investing in evidence-based community interventions that help to keep residents healthy and safe. PWTF – the first program of its kind in the country – has been recognized as a national model by other states, national health care and public health organizations, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

We ask that re-authorization for PWTF be included in any health care legislative package that advances in the House and Senate this session.

Between 2014-2018, PWTF funded successful clinical-community partnerships focused on childhood asthma, falls among older adults, hypertension, and tobacco use. We are pleased with the results of the rigorous independent evaluation of PWTF conducted by Harvard Catalyst, which concluded that **“PWTF appears to be a very sound investment from the point of view of improving outcomes and controlling costs.”** The evaluation found that:

- PWTF hypertension interventions generated net cost-savings
- PWTF pediatric asthma interventions led to declines in total health care costs
- PWTF falls prevention interventions were cost effective and projected to prevent 3,000 falls among older adults over five years

The independent evaluation noted significant systems innovation and concluded that PWTF warrants further investment.

Preventable health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and substance use disorders continue to rise, consuming 86% of national health care costs. The result is shorter lives, lower quality of life, reduced workplace productivity, and more missed school days. Preventable chronic conditions

affect all areas of the state, but disproportionately impact communities of color and low income communities, representing a fundamental barrier to equity in our Commonwealth. **Tackling these challenges requires more than just good clinical care – it depends on a robust investment in community-based prevention such as the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund.**

PWTF can bring evidence-based interventions to scale and evaluate their impact, providing crucial lessons for MassHealth and accountable care organizations as they seek to improve care at lower cost. PWTF also addresses community factors that lead to poor health – supporting ACOs to take on financial risk by tackling major cost drivers.

We are very pleased that both the House and Senate included support for PWTF in their respective health care bills last session, and we are heartened that a bipartisan majority of both the House and Senate has co-sponsored PWTF legislation this session.

We ask for your partnership to continue the important and groundbreaking work of the Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund.

Signed,

(see signatories on following pages)

cc: Chair Jo Comerford, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
Chair John Mahoney, House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health

Members, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing:

Senator Harriette L. Chandler, Vice Chair
Representative Daniel R. Cullinane, Vice Chair
Senator Viriato M. deMacedo, Ranking Minority Member
Representative Randy Hunt, Ranking Minority Member
Senator Adam G. Hinds
Senator Julian Cyr
Senator Mark C. Montigny
Senator Joseph A. Boncore
Representative Brian M. Ashe
Representative Christine P. Barber
Representative Steven Ultrino
Representative Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.
Representative William J. Driscoll, Jr.
Representative Natalie M. Higgins
Representative Brian W. Murray
Representative Jon Santiago
Representative Mathew J. Muratore
Representative Lenny Mirra

Signed,

Municipal Leaders

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager*
Suzanne Carp, Executive Director, Arlington Council on Aging

CITY OF BOSTON

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Andrea Campbell, City Council President, District 4
Monica Valdes-Lupi, Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission

CITY OF CHELSEA

Thomas Ambrosino, City Manager

CITY OF EVERETT

Carlo DeMaria, Mayor

CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

Yvonne Spicer, Mayor
Sam Wong, Director of Public Health

TOWN OF HAMILTON

Joseph Domelowicz, Town Manager

CITY OF HOLYOKE

Alex Morse, Mayor

CITY OF LYNN

Tom McGee, Mayor

CITY OF MALDEN

Gary Christenson, Mayor

TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD

Jason Silva, Town Administrator

CITY OF MEDFORD

Stephanie Burke, Mayor

TOWN OF MIDDLETON

Andrew Sheehan, Town Administrator

TOWN OF NAHANT

Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

Jon Mitchell, Mayor

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS

Tom Bernard, Mayor

CITY OF PITTSFIELD

Linda Tyer, Mayor
Alan Kulberg, Chair, Board of Health

CITY OF QUINCY

Thomas Koch, Mayor
Ruth Jones, Commissioner of Health

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Jim Huebner, Chair, Select Board*

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH

Robert Hedlund, Mayor
Daniel McCormack, Health Director

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT/CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE

Claude Jacob, Chief Public Health Officer

CITY OF GLOUCESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Karin Carroll, Public Health Director

LEXINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Caileen Foley, Executive Director

TRI-TOWN HEALTH DISTRICT (Lee, Lenox & Stockbridge)

James Wilusz, Executive Director

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Marc Draisen, Executive Director

Statewide Leaders

Advancing Wellness

Mari Ryan, MBA, MHP, CWP, Founder/CEO

AIDS Action/Fenway Health

Carl Sciortino, Vice President of Government and Community Relations

Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs

Peter Doliber, Executive Director

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Marc Hymovitz, Massachusetts Government Relations Director

*For identification purposes only.

American Diabetes Association

Stephan Habbe, Director, State Government Affairs & Advocacy

American Heart Association & American Stroke Association

Allyson Perron Drag, Government Relations Director

Connie Askin

Executive Director, ChopChop Family*

Elena Carbone

Chair of Department of Nutrition, University of Massachusetts Amherst *

Citizen's Housing & Planning Association

Eric Shupin, Director of Public Policy

Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at Harvard Law School

Katie Garfield, Clinical Instructor

Community Care Cooperative

Christina Severin, President & CEO

Community Servings

Jean Terranova, Director of Food and Health Policy

DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

Michael Monopoli, Executive Director of Grants Strategy

The Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital

Aswita Tan-McGory, Director

Michelle Drolsbaugh

New England Director, Minding Your Mind*

Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH

Dean, Boston University School of Public Health*

Green and Healthy Homes Initiative

Ruth Ann Norton, President & CEO

Grow a Strong Family

Mara Briere, President & Founder

Harvard Catalyst

David Zielinski, Executive Director

Paul Hattis, MD, JD, MPH

Associate Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine, Tufts Medical School Professor*

Health Care For All

Amy Rosenthal, Executive Director

Health Care Without Harm

Jennifer Obadia, Eastern US Director, Healthy Food in Health Care

Health Resources in Action

Steve Ridini, President & CEO

Healthy Living Center of Excellence

Jennifer Raymond, Director

David Hemenway, PhD

Professor of Health Policy; Co-Director Harvard Injury Control Research Center, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action

Cindy Rowe, Executive Director

John Snow, Inc.

Stewart Landers, JD, Director, US Health Services, Boston Office

Justice Resource Institute

Andy Pond, President and CEO

Howard K. Koh, MD, MPH

Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.

Milagros Abreu, Executive Director/President

Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics

Melanie Mott, President

Massachusetts Association for Community Action

Joseph Diamond, Executive Director

Massachusetts Association for Mental Health

Danna Mauch, PhD, Executive Director

Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations

David Bryant, Director of Advocacy

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

Lisette Blondet, Executive Director

Massachusetts Association of Health Boards

Cheryl Sbarra, Senior Staff Attorney, Director of the Tobacco Cessation & Prevention Program & Chronic Disease Prevention Program

Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Elizabeth Goodman, MD, MBA, President

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

Robyn Frost, Executive Director

Massachusetts Councils on Aging

David P. Stevens, Executive Director

Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

Winton Pitcoff, Director

Massachusetts Health Council

David R. Martin, Esq., CEO

Massachusetts Health Officers Association

Dawn Sibor, Executive Director

Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance

Joe Finn, President & Executive Director

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Georgia Katsoulomitis, Executive Director

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

James W Hunt, Jr., President and CEO

Massachusetts Medical Society

Maryanne Bombaugh, President

Massachusetts Public Health Association

Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director

MLPB

Samantha Morton, CEO

Barbara Olendzki

Director of Center for Applied Nutrition, University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Tobacco Free Mass

Lauren A. Smith, MD, MPH, Chair

Nancy Turnbull

Senior Lecturer on Health Policy, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

WalkBoston

Stacey Beuttell, Deputy Director

Local & Regional Leaders

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

John Drew, President/CEO

Allston Brighton Health Collaborative

Anna Leslie, Coordinator

Aspire Health Alliance

Lisa Braude, President and CEO

Athol Area YMCA

Jennifer Gordon, Executive Director

Bay State Community Services

Daurice Cox, Psy.D, CAS, President & CEO

Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Milton

Richard Fernandez, President

Berkshire Family YMCA

Jessica Rumlow, CEO

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

James Huebner, Chair, Governing Board

Blue Hills Community Health Alliance (CHNA 20)

Kym Williams, MPH, MBA, Program Director

The Boston Foundation

Paul Grogan, President & CEO

Boston Medical Center Health System

Melissa Shannon, Vice President for Government Affairs

Boston Medical Center Injury Center

Jonathan Howland, PhD, MPH, MPA, Director

Central Mass Locavore

Jacki Hildreth, Co-Owner & Director

Central West Justice Center

Leticia Medina-Richman, Managing Attorney

Codman Square Health Center

Sandra Cotterell, CEO

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation

Gail Latimore, Executive Director

Community Action Pioneer Valley

Clare Higgins, Executive Director

Community Health Center of Cape Cod

Karen Gardner, CEO

Community Health Center of Franklin County

Edward Sayer, CEO

Community Health Network for North Central Massachusetts

Chelsey Patriss, Executive Director

Community Servings

Jean Terranova, Director of Food & Health Policy

*For identification purposes only.

The Dimock Center

Nandini Sengupta, Medical Director of Health Services

DotHouse Health

Michelle Nadow, CEO

Duffy Health Center

Heidi Nelson, CEO

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center

Stephen Kerrigan, President & CEO

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley

Joan Hatem Roy, Chief Executive Officer

Enhance Asian Community on Health

Sara Tan, Executive Director

Ethos

Dale Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer

Family Health Center of Worcester, Inc.

Louis Brady, President/CEO

Fresh Truck

Michael Lantow, Fresh Connect Program Director

The Greater Boston Food Bank

Catherine Drennan, Director, Communications and Public Affairs

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization

Bonny Gilbert and Michael Rubenstein, Co-Chairs, Health Care Team

Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community

Kerry Mello, Chair

Greater Holyoke YMCA

Kathleen Viens, CEO

Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc.

Paul Crowley, Chief Executive Officer

Greater New Bedford Community Health Center

Cheryl Bartlett, President & CEO

Groundwork Lawrence

Heather McMann, Executive Director

Hampshire Regional YMCA

Julie Bianco, CEO

Harbor Health Services

Charles Jones, President & CEO

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center

Stan McLaren, President & CEO

Healthy Living Cape Cod

Gina Battles, Program Coordinator

Holyoke Health Center

Jay Breines, CEO

Holyoke Medical Center

Carl Cameron, Chief Operating Officer

Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.

Helena DaSilva Hughes, Executive Director

Interfaith Social Services

Rick Doane, Executive Director

Island Grown Initiative

Rebecca Haag, Executive Director

Just Roots Inc.

Jessica O'Neill, Executive Director

Life Connection Center Inc.

Jaime Dillon, Executive Director

Malden YMCA

Debbie Amaral, CEO

Manet Community Health Center

Cynthia Sierra, CEO

MetroWest YMCA

Rick Macpherson, President & CEO

Mill City Grows

Francey Slater, Executive Director

Montachusett Opportunity Council

Kevin Reed, Executive Director

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

Amber Besaw, Interim Executive Director

Old Colony YMCA

Vincent Marturano, President/CEO

The Open Door

Julie LaFontaine, Executive Director

Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

Jessica Collins, Executive Director

Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.

Joanne Kelly, Vice President, Administration & Finance

Francie Randolph

Founding Director, Sustainable CAPE*

South Shore Elder Services

Sandra Lindsey, CEO

South Shore Health

Katrina Dwyer, Director Care Coordination/Community Benefits Officer

South Shore YMCA

Paul Gorman, President & CEO

Springfield Dementia Friendly Coalition

Synthia Scott-Mitchell, Chairwoman

Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.

Paul F. Bailey, Executive Director

Margaret Rocchio

Senior Director, Health Services, Boston Public Schools*

Risa Silverman

Outreach Director, UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences*

UMass Memorial Health Care

Monica Lowell, Vice President Community Health Improvement

Urban College of Boston

Michael Taylor, President

Wendell P. Clark Memorial YMCA

Michael Quinn, Executive Director

Western Massachusetts Public Health Association

Sharon Hart, President

Whittier Street Health Center

Frederica M. Williams, President & CEO

Worcester Public Schools

Debra McGovern, Director of Nursing & Health Services

YMCA Cape Cod

Stacie Peugh, President & CEO

YMCA of Central Massachusetts

David Connell, President & CEO

YMCA of Greater Boston

James Morton, President/CEO

YMCA of Metro North

Kathleen Walsh, President & CEO

YMCA of North Shore

Christopher Lovasco, Chief Executive Officer

YMCA Southcoast

Jim Scherer, President & CEO

Other Supporters

Jillian Allard, RN**Karen Allaway, RN**

National Association of School Nurses*

Ahmed Appiah

School Nurse, Worcester Public Schools

Patricia Baker, RN, BSN**Areliz Barbosa**

Community Health Worker

Matthew Bell,

Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston*

James Brooks**Jamie Berberena**

Regional Coordinator, Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

Maureen Burke, RN, M.Ed.

School Nurse, Worcester Public Schools

Suzanne Cashman, RN

Newtonville

Rae Dick

Director of Environmental Services, Town of Westford Health Department*

Karen Emmons

Professor

Amy Epstein

Regional Prevention Director, City of Gloucester Health Department*

Kelly Flannery**Maura Flynn, RN****Ann Grogan****Matt Haffenreffer**

Food Technology Consultant, Fresh Truck

Eliza Hallett**Serena Howlett, JD, MPH**

Margaret Igne
President, Boston District, Massachusetts Medical Society
Alliance*

Denise Khalili, RN

Randy Kinnas

Ted Kremer, MD
UMass Memorial Medical Center

Kathleen Law
School Nurse, Worcester Public Schools

Shelley Maroney-Striker
School Nurse, Worcester Public Schools

Vicky McCarthy

Kristin McFarland, RN
Worcester Public Schools

Jacob Mirsky
Physician, Massachusetts General Hospital*

Iris Montijo, NP
Codman Square Health Center

Jenna Newbegin
Grant Manager, City of Gloucester Health Department

Leslie Pasons-Shuqom
Senior Clinical Consultant

Catherine Perry
Nurse Supervisor, Worcester Public Schools

Nelly Plasencia
Community Health Worker, Family Health Center of
Worcester

Jose Ramirez
Vice President of Operations, Edward M. Kennedy
Community Health Center– Worcester

Magda Rodriguez
Community Health Worker

Anna Rosenquist, MD

Jeanne Sherlock
Chief Operating Officer, MetroWest YMCA, Inc.

Ashley Stockwell
Program Manager, Blue Hills Community Health Alliance
(CHNA 20)

Susan Tapases, RN

Deborah Taylor
Spencer, MA

Suzanne Taylor, RN
Worcester Public Schools

Samantha Tweedie
Graduate Student, Tufts University*

Debra Vescera, BSN, RN

Elaine Zhang
Public Health Planner