



## THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

February 12, 2026

Matthew Veno, Executive Director  
& GIC Commissioners  
Group Insurance Commission  
1 Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Executive Director Veno and GIC Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Springfield and as a major participant in the Commonwealth's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) with over 8,000 participating members, I am writing to express my concerns on the upcoming votes on the potential change to the GIC plan designs, and on product specific premiums that could have an adverse impact upon our municipality, our employees, retirees and their families.

I respectfully ask for the GIC to not vote on a plan design change that would significantly increase a member's healthcare cost and out-of-pocket expenses as this would have a negative financial impact upon our employees, retirees and their families. In addition, I respectfully ask for the GIC to not vote for any significant rate increases on product specific premiums.

Although the cost for healthcare has dramatically increased over the past few years, I want to commend and applaud Governor Maura Healey for her leadership in working to address this growing concern.

Recently, Governor Healey announced major action steps to make healthcare more affordable by having the Division of Insurance (DOI) update their regulations to help streamline prior authorization practices in the state, including eliminating prior authorization for many routine and essential services.

Additionally, the Healey-Driscoll Administration created a Health Care Affordability Working Group, which has been tasked with developing a concrete plan and proposal to help reduce health care system costs, including targeting administrative waste, pricing practices and system inefficiencies, which could help in lowering costs while protecting access and quality.

In light of this groundbreaking news to help tackle health care system costs. I would implore the GIC to 'hold the line' and hold off on voting on any plan design changes and significant premium increases until the Health Care Affordability Working Group has a chance to work and find plausible means to reduce health care system costs. Let's give this working group time and allow the new DOI regulations a chance to be implemented across the Commonwealth so we can see what kind of cost saving impact they can provide before any votes are taken that could impact our municipalities, employees, retirees and their families.

If the GIC votes on any changes and this working group comes forward with a workable plan to reduce health care system costs, GIC members would not see this benefit and would continue paying more for their health care.

Let's give this working group a chance to address and tackle this difficult challenge before any vote is taken that would significantly increase the health care costs for our employees, retirees and their families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Domenic J. Sarno  
Mayor

*"Good health & God Bless"*