April 3, 2020

The Honorable Governor Charles D. Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Governor Baker:

We ask you to use your emergency authority to expedite and/or waive credentialing requirements to allow school nurses to help treat COVID-19 patients, as well as to allow school nurses to assist local community health boards with contact tracing efforts.

Our local cities and towns are facing daunting challenges in identifying and tracing contacts with COVID-19 positive patients. It is a very labor-intensive form of epidemiological detective work that can become too labor intensive for the limited number of tracing investigators when so many people have the virus that sources of exposure are simply unable to be identified.

Contact tracing efforts are incredibly important and need to be ramped up to support this public health response. As you are aware, contact tracing helps make earlier diagnosis possible and getting care to those who need it. Right now, we need all hands on deck. School nurses, in particular, are considered to be community helpers and are ready to provide valuable help in tracing cases in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Please allow school nurses, many of whom are home due to statewide school closures, to assist local communities with this effort. This authorization has the potential to help save lives. Our school nurses know their communities well and are qualified to assist boards of health with this urgent work.

Sincerely,

Senator Eric P. Lesser
First Hampden and Hampshire District

Senator Joanne M. Comerford
Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District
Senator Brendan P. Crighton  
3rd Essex District

Senator Anne M. Gobi  
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex

Senator Michael O. Moore  
2nd Worcester District

Senator Marc R. Pacheco  
1st Plymouth and Bristol

Representative Brian M. Ashe  
2nd Hampden District

Representative Anthony F. D. Cabral  
13th Bristol District

Representative Michelle L. Ciccolo  
15th Middlesex District

Representative Marcos A. Devers  
16th Essex District

Representative Carmine L. Gentile  
13th Middlesex District

Representative Hannah Kane  
11th Worcester District

Representative Adrian C. Madaro  
1st Suffolk District

Representative Brian W. Murray  
10th Worcester District

Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa  
1st Hampshire District

Representative Jose F. Tosado  
9th Hampden District

Senator Barry R. Finegold  
2nd Essex and Middlesex District

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen  
Second Middlesex District

Senator Patrick M. O’Connor  
Plymouth and Norfolk District

Representative Natalie M. Blais  
1st Franklin District

Representative Linda Dean Campbell  
15th Essex District

Representative David F. DeCoste  
5th Plymouth District

Representative Mindy Domb  
3rd Hampshire District

Representative Stephen Hay  
3rd Worcester District

Representative Patrick J. Kearney  
4th Plymouth District

Representative Joseph D. McKenna  
18th Worcester District

Representative John H. Rogers  
12th Norfolk District

Representative William M. Straus  
10th Bristol District

Representative John C. Velis  
4th Hampden District

Cc:  
Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Dan Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth