



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, 02133 1053

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 Barry R. Finegold
2nd Essex and Middlesex District

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

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen
Second Middlesex District

Senator Michael O. Moore
2nd Worcester District

Senator Patrick M. O'Connor
Plymouth and Norfolk District

Senator Marc R. Pacheco
1st Plymouth and Bristol

Representative Brian M. Ashe
2nd Hampden District

Representative Natalie M. Blais
1st Franklin District

Representative Anthony F. D. Cabral
13th Bristol District

Representative Linda Dean Campbell
15th Essex District

Representative Michelle L. Ciccolo
15th Middlesex District

Representative David F. DeCoste
5th Plymouth District

Representative Marcos A. Devers
16th Essex District

Representative Mindy Domb
3rd Hampshire District

Representative Carmine L. Gentile
13th Middlesex District

Representative Stephen Hay
3rd Worcester District

Representative Hannah Kane
11th Worcester District

Representative Patrick J. Kearney
4th Plymouth District

Representative Adrian C. Madaro
1st Suffolk District

Representative Joseph D. McKenna
18th Worcester District

Representative Brian W. Murray
10th Worcester District

Representative John H. Rogers
12th Norfolk District

Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa
1st Hampshire District

Representative William M. Straus
10th Bristol District

Representative Jose F. Tosado
9th Hampden 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