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October 18, 2016

To: Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
From: Health Leads
Re: Public Testimony on the Cost Trend Panel
Thank you for allowing public comment

My name is Bill Brodnitzki, I work for Health Leads which is a national non-profit based here in Boston. Health Leads mission is to make addressing social needs a standard part of health care, so needless to say we were excited about this morning's session on Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). We work with a number of the health care systems nationally and a number that spoke today on Social determinants of health, like BMC and Mass General, to help them navigate their patients (their consumers) to appropriate social services. We also provide tools, workshops and other resources to help clinicians and administrators interested in incorporating social needs into their practices.

We have been doing the blocking and tackling of the screening, resource landscape curation and navigation services for 20 years and are absolutely thrilled that Massachusetts, this commission and Mass Health are making addressing social needs an important part of the definition of care going forward. The policy and incentive air cover here, and some of the requirements in the Mass Health ACO are key in making this, addressing the social determinants of health, a sustainable, and ongoing effort versus the healthcare improvement fad of the day – so Thank You!

Based on some of the insights shared by Lauren Taylor earlier today, other clinical evidence we have seen and co-authored, we know SDoH is both a real issue and but more importantly it IS addressable with the right effort and focus. We encourage this body to continue to push the thinking and requirements of both health care and social service organizations to work collaboratively and to address these issues, from both an economic and more importantly equity perspective.

Some of our top recommendations for the Health Care community and this commission are: (Many of which were mentioned early today as well)

- 1) Truly screen all for SDoH → how can we fix if we don't know the issues
- 2) Encourage SDoH to be part of the clinical workflow → both having workforces that know it's their job and the systems to support.
- 3) Measure outcomes → understand what resources are effective and those that are not
- 4) Share → we are all learning and please encourage sharing and collaboration
- 5) Leadership → the organizations that do this well (addressing SDoH in a HC setting) have the organizational leadership and air cover to be bold; even if an immediate ROI is not apparent!

Thank you!