

March 30, 2018

Mr. David Seltz
Executive Director
Health Policy Commission
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

RE: Potential Modification of the 2019 Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark

Lahey Health System, Inc. ("Lahey") appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the 2019 Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark. Lahey is a fully integrated health care system committed to delivering high-quality, cost-effective care, and firmly supports the Commission's goal of moderating the unsustainable cost growth trend.

Lahey supports the establishment of a target in order to facilitate meaningful progress towards reducing costs for consumers, employers, and the Commonwealth. A benchmark promotes this type of accountability and transparency, and it provides a strong guidepost for measuring and tracking progress.

The health care landscape continues to evolve at a rapid pace, and there is increasing pressure on providers to continue to deliver high-value care at a lower cost. Our efforts in population health management require considerable investment, time, and resources in order to effectively manage total medical expense. We encourage the Commission to take these types of factors into consideration as it deliberates on the potential modification to the benchmark.

Sincerely,



Scott V. Hartman
VP, Governmental Relations
Lahey Health System