2026 PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

Each year, the HPC calls for written pre-filed testimony from health care entities to inform the annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearing. In 2026, all entities were asked to comment on the work of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Health Care Affordability Working Group (HCAWG), which published twelve policy recommendations to advance health care affordability in the Commonwealth in August.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR HEALTH PLANS AND PROVIDERS



INNOVATION

40% of entities called for policies that streamline patient care and move care to lower-cost settings.



PRIMARY CARE

36% of entities shared an interest in strengthening primary care.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

36% of entities cited rising prescription drug costs as the primary barrier to affordability.

HEALTH PLANS



Stressed the importance of policies and programs that ensure members receive the **right care, in the right place, at the right time.**



Referenced their work to **streamline prior authorizations** and reduce administration burdens

PROVIDERS



Called for regulatory and reimbursement reforms that enable innovative care models and support **team-based primary care**.



Cited **capacity and workforce challenges** as barriers to providing high-quality affordable care.

PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS highlighted the need to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients through cost-sharing and rebate pass-through reforms.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS (PBMs) called for increased transparency throughout the pharmaceutical industry.

SIGNIFICANT EQUITY INVESTORS shared an interest in technology-enabled innovations that move care into the community, manage chronic conditions, and reduce administrative burdens.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES ORGANIZATION stressed that they provide support for providers to streamline their care.

2026 PRE-FILED TESTIMONY



PRIMARY CARE

- **70%** of providers selected strengthening primary care as **one of their top three priorities** among HCAWG's recommendations.
- **78%** of providers are **investing in team-based primary care models** that increase timely access to high-value care and improve care coordination.
- **44%** of health plans are making **investments and reforming payment policies** to support their members' access to primary and preventive care.



INNOVATION

- **55%** of health plans selected supporting innovative care delivery models as their **top priority** among HCAWG's recommendations and outlined their existing policies that pay for innovative care delivery.
- **35%** of providers have implemented innovative programs to **move care to lower-cost settings**, the community, and patients' homes



PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

- **100%** of PBMs and **90%** of pharmaceutical manufacturers selected reducing prescription drug costs among their **top two policy priorities.**
- **89%** of health plans consider prescription drug costs to be a **primary barrier to increasing health care affordability.**
- **50%** of PBMs and manufacturers called for **increased transparency across the pharmaceutical industry** to support policies to reduce prescription drug spending.
- **30%** of providers – including all community health centers – stressed the **importance of 340B discounts** in ensuring access to affordable prescription medications.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **17** entities prioritized investments in the Commonwealth's **nursing educational pipeline and health care workforce.**
- **12** entities called for data interoperability, payment policies, and workforce reforms that streamline **transitions of care** across settings.
- **11** entities support the establishment of a **statewide data exchange** to advance the interoperability of data across payers and providers.
- **10** entities stressed the importance of utilizing **artificial intelligence** in the health care industry to reduce administrative burdens and called for regulation to ensure responsible utilization of the technology.
- **Seven** entities highlighted the need to reduce the utilization of potentially avoidable **low-value care.**

MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

The full list of entities required to file testimony and their submissions are available on the HPC's website at MassHPC.gov/2026-CTH