



**Thursday, October 4, 2018**

**Statement from Lora Pellegrini, President of the MA Association of Health Plans  
On the Health Policy Commission’s Analysis of Question 1, the *Nurse-Patient Assignment  
Limits Initiative***

“MAHP and our member plans are proud of the advances our state has made in providing near universal health insurance coverage to our state’s residents, but we know more work needs to be done to make health care more affordable as Massachusetts has the second highest health care costs in the nation.

Recently, we requested that the Health Policy Commission conduct an independent analysis of Question 1, the *Nurse-Patient Assignment Limits Initiative*, to determine the potential cost impact of mandated nurse-to-patient staffing ratios in Massachusetts on the health care system. We also sought to understand any projected improvements in quality of care that would result from increasing nurse staffing levels to those established pursuant to the ballot question.

We appreciate the expert analysis conducted by the HPC. Their analysis found that Question 1’s provisions could raise health care costs by more than \$900 million annually, with no measurable improvement in quality of care for patients. This increase in spending will likely result in increased premiums for employers and consumers, and based on these findings, will threaten our state’s ability to meet the health care cost growth benchmark.

Based on the HPC’s analysis, MAHP opposes Question 1.”

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