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**Statement of Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans on Governor Baker’s Health Care Bill Proposal  
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The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans and our members are pleased to see that Governor Baker’s health care legislation targets areas that address health care cost drivers and prioritize investments in primary care and behavioral health.

We are strong supporters of the bill’s provision that would provide surprise billing protections for certain out-of-network (OON) services by establishing a default payment rate of reimbursement that carriers must pay to out-of-network providers for unforeseen OON services. We also support provisions that address the rising cost of prescription drugs and increase transparency and accountability for drug manufacturers.

The bill also includes an important provision to enhance spending for primary care and behavioral health, the backbone of our health care delivery system. It is essential that these investments are made within the confines of the state’s cost growth benchmark.

We applaud the Governor for his leadership on this important piece of legislation and we look forward to working with him and his administration to preserve access, improve care quality and value, and contain costs to the state’s health care system.

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