



Group Insurance Commission
19 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114

January 24, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

WE, the undersigned representatives of the over 6,000 full-time state workers employed by the nine Massachusetts State Universities, write to express our strong opposition to your recent vote making substantive changes to health plan vendors offered by Group Insurance Commission (GIC); our thoughts about the lack of transparency during the GIC procurement process; your decision to make radical changes to health care vendors available to GIC enrollees with little to no enrollee involvement; the manner by which the "Commission Leadership" announced your vote; and our request that you reconsider your vote to eliminate Tufts, Fallon and Harvard Pilgrim from the GIC health care vendors list.

We first call attention to the purported year-long procurement process used by the GIC, leading up to your vote. Our colleagues, members, and employees, were unaware that the commission was conducting a procurement review and considering substantial changes to benefit plans available to eligible GIC enrollees. There was never any indication from the commission that reducing the GIC health care vendor list, available to eligible state employees, from six to three, was under consideration.

In the January 18, 2018 email announcement of your vote, the GIC Leadership stated that their procurement process was "shared with GIC members" through "a series of Listening Tours and distributed member surveys." Your leadership team reported that they received 7,240 of the 442,000 surveys from GIC enrollees during their procurement review. From all accounts, our campus workforce was completely unaware of this survey and the GIC procurement process.

The lack of transparency and public awareness of your vote on January 18, 2018, is very concerning to us. Although meetings of the commission may not normally be well attended by the public or by GIC enrollees, a scheduled vote to eliminate three carriers would have most definitely would have generated interest in attending the meeting. We also understand that some commission members did not receive any indication of the vote until the day before the meeting.

After the commission vote on Thursday afternoon, state agency GIC coordinators received an email from GIC Leadership informing them of your vote. The email from your GIC Leadership, directed coordinators to inform "all employees within your respective agencies, branches and offices" of your vote. Included in that directive was the announcement of regional hearings for public comment, starting the following day. Those prescheduled hearings began less than 24 hours after notification of your vote. The manner by which the GIC informed affected employees lacked any forethought or appreciation for the nearly 250,000 affected employees and their families.

Council of Presidents

Executive Office, 486 Chandler St., Worcester, MA 01602; Phone 508-929-9492

*Bridgewater State University • Fitchburg State University • Framingham State University • Massachusetts College of Art and Design • Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Maritime Academy • Salem State University • Westfield State University • Worcester State University*

The nine Presidents of the State Universities, the President of the Massachusetts State College Association, the President of the Association of Professional Administrators of the State University System, and the Executive Director of Council 93 Local 1067 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, as representatives of our state university workforce, respectfully request:

- You reconsider your vote to eliminate Tufts, Fallon, and Harvard Pilgrim as vendor options for GIC enrollees.
- You extend the existing vendor contract for one year and restart the vendor procurement review using an open, inclusive and transparent process.

Respectfully,



President Frederick W. Clark Jr.
Bridgewater State University



President Christopher J. O'Donnell
Massachusetts State College Association



President Sherry Horeanopoulos
Association of Professional Administrators



Executive Director Frank Moroney
Council 93 1067, AFSCME



President F. Javier Cevallos
Framingham State University



President Francis X. McDonald
Massachusetts Maritime Academy



President Richard S. Lapidus
Fitchburg State University



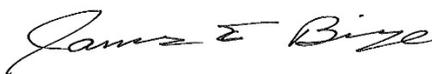
President John Keenan
Salem State University



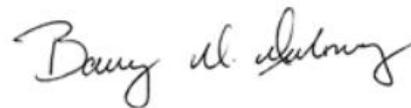
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