

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Office of the Governor
Massachusetts State House
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

We are writing to you on behalf of the more than 30,000 employees we represent working in the Executive Branch, higher education, and the Trial Courts, employees subject to the decisions you make about economic parameters for collective bargaining.

We have all been advised by your representatives that your administration will not approve any collective bargaining agreement that exceeds a total of 5% in incremental costs over a period of three years.¹ The parameters set by your administration also make no allowance for any other economic adjustments, such as shift differentials, meal reimbursements, or payments to the health and welfare funds that provide dental and optical benefits to our members.

Given the fact that the offer falls far short of both the increase in the consumer price index and other public sector settlements in Massachusetts, we have to express our deep disappointment. The offer also fails to take into account the deep cuts in take-home pay our members have had to absorb as a result of large increases in the health care co-pays and deductibles implemented by your administration.

We are all committed to working together, to continuing to build a working relationship with your administration, and we hope for the same commitment from you. We all work hard at achieving success in improving public services in the Commonwealth. Whether it is protecting kids at the Department of Children and Families, shortening lines at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, or scores of other projects: despite ERIP, turnover, and budget cuts, the workforce and the unions who represent them manage to continue delivering quality public services with fewer and fewer resources.

We don't have unrealistic expectations. We didn't expect that staffing levels were going to go up under your administration. We didn't expect that our health care costs would go down. What we did expect however is that we would get a fair shake from you when it came time to negotiate wages. The simple fact is that we haven't. While the cost of living is increasing at around 2.5% a year we are being offered two raises of 0.5% each in FY 18. While employees of cities, towns and authorities are receiving increases in excess of 2% per year, we are offered less.

We don't expect to be treated better than other public employees, but we didn't expect to be treated worse.

As of now, we are.

¹ With a possible additional one percent if FY 18 tax revenues exceed FY 17 revenues by 5.7%

We ask that you reconsider the economic parameters of our negotiations. We ask that you authorize settlements that are more in tune with the increase in the Consumer Price Index, as well as other public sector settlements reached in FY 18 in Massachusetts.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



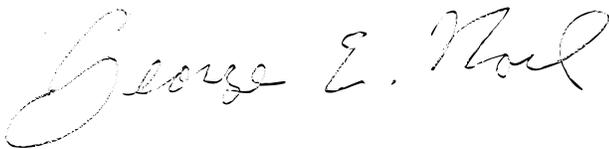
David Holway
President, National Association of Governmental Employees



Peter MacKinnon
President, SEIU Local 509



Donna Kelly-Williams, RN
President, Massachusetts Nurses Association



George Noel
Business Manager, OPEIU Local 6



Mark Dellaruso
President, SEIU Local 888

Frank Moroney
Executive Director, AFSCME Council 93

Barbara Madeloni
President, Massachusetts Teachers Association

cc: John B. Langan, Director of OER
Michael J. Heffernan, Secretary of Administration & Finance