

You are Invited to ECOH Policy Forum

“Healthcare Affordability Through Innovation on Hospital Pricing Policy”

May 28th | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

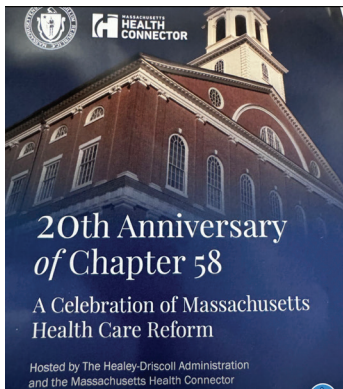
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Massachusetts Health Care Reform Law Turns 20

The 20th anniversary of the Massachusetts landmark healthcare reform law (Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006) was commemorated on April 13th in a celebration at the historic Faneuil Hall befitting of a head of state. In addition to five Governors, two Speakers, many Senators and Representatives and several regulators, a large cast of health advocates, business leaders, former staffers, as well as patients who benefitted from the reforms gathered to mark the passage of this important law. Attendees were regaled with stories from many of those involved and the challenges that were overcome to make this proposal a reality. There was collective pride for all those involved in working together in a bipartisan way for the common good – a practice that is increasingly rare in our nation’s capital and less common among state officials today.

While the event was a celebration of the law’s accomplishments, there was broad acknowledgement that until the cost of healthcare is meaningfully addressed, Massachusetts cannot deem the law a success.

Read ECOH President Eileen McAnneny’s Op-Ed that she co-authored with the former President and CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts that provides a clear-eyed assessment of the law [here](#).



ECOH Urges a Reduction In the Cost Benchmark at the Health Policy Commission’s Annual Health Care Cost Benchmark Hearing

The Health Policy Commission, the state agency charged with monitoring health care cost trends and making recommendations to improve the affordability of healthcare for all residents of the Commonwealth, holds a hearing every year to solicit input on the healthcare cost growth benchmark. The benchmark is one of the primary ways that the HPC tries to moderate costs, as it serves as a target for the overall growth of the Massachusetts health care system. ECOH urged the HPC to reduce the cost benchmark, citing a lot of data documenting the increasing unaffordability of health care costs for individuals, families, employers, municipalities and the state.

Watch ECOH President McAnneny’s testimony below:



Read ECOH’s written testimony [here](#).

ECOH Joins with Nine Other Business Groups to Provide Recommendations to Governor Healey’s Health Care Affordability Working Group

In response to the growing concern about the impact that high health care costs are having on the state’s ability to retain and attract individuals and businesses, and the growing pressure that health care costs are having on the state’s budget, Governor Healey announced the formation of a Health Care Affordability Working Group on January 14, 2026. This working group will focus on the underlying drivers of high health care costs – including administrative waste, pricing practices and system inefficiencies – and will develop actionable recommendations for lowering costs while protecting access and quality.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA said it best:

“Our health care system has reached a breaking point where costs are outpacing our ability to pay for care.”

To assist the Working Group in its important and urgent work, ECOH and nine other business organizations and businesses outlined a series of recommendations for reducing health care costs, and urged the Working Group to adopt them.

Although disappointed that there are not more employer voices represented on the Working Group and their meetings are not open to the public, the signatories of the joint letter want to work collaboratively on solutions, convey the urgency of addressing high costs and provide the working group with data-driven, Massachusetts-specific solutions that have been vetted by state agencies and other respected data sources.

Read the letter [here](#).

Read the Governor Healey's Announcement [here](#)

HPC Announces New Advisory Council Membership – ECOH is a Member

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) announced the new HPC Advisory Council membership for the 2026 – 2027 term. The Advisory Council to the HPC comprises a broad cross-section of leaders from the state's health care community, appointed by the HPC's Executive Director. The Advisory Council advises the HPC on its mission to make health care more affordable, transparent, and equitable for all residents of the Commonwealth.

“At a momentous time for health care in Massachusetts and across the U.S., we are excited to welcome the newest cohort of the HPC Advisory Council,” said HPC Executive Director David Seltz. “The Advisory Council members bring important and broad-ranging expertise and experience from across the health care system and beyond. Their collaboration will help guide the HPC in addressing some of the Commonwealth's most pressing challenges. This work is increasingly urgent, as 40% of Massachusetts residents report facing health care affordability challenges. We look forward to the Advisory Council's partnership as we work toward our shared goal of a more affordable, accessible, and equitable health care system for all Massachusetts residents.”

Advisory Council Members: 2026 – 2027 Term

- Christopher Andreoli, MD, CEO, Optum New England
- Caitlin Beresin, Director, U.S. State Affairs, Johnson & Johnson NEW
- Aimee Brewer, President and CEO, Sturdy Health
- Patrick Brown, Director of Policy, Massachusetts Biotechnology Council NEW
- Christopher Carlozzi, Senior State Director - North Region, National Federation of Independent Businesses
- JD Chesloff, President and CEO, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- Cheryl Clark, MD, Associate Chief for Equity Research and Strategic Partnerships, Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Executive Director and Senior Vice President, Institute for Health Equity, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
- Michael Curry, President and CEO, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
- Joe-Ann Fergus, PhD, Executive Director, Massachusetts Nurses Association NEW
- Juan Fernando Lopera, Chief Community and Health Impact Officer, Beth Israel Lahey Health
- Valerie Fleishman, Executive Vice President and Chief Innovation Officer, Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association NEW
- Timothy Foley, Vice President, Government Relations, UMass Memorial Health NEW
- Mimi Gardner, Vice President, Chief Equity Officer, NeighborHealth NEW
- Christopher Garofalo, MD, Owner Physician, Family Medicine Associates of South Attleboro, MMS Member NEW
- Katherine Gergen Barnett, MD, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation; Primary Care Provider, Boston Medical Center NEW
- Tara Gregorio, President and CEO, Massachusetts Senior Care Association
- Jon Hurst, President and CEO, Retailers Association of Massachusetts
- Jake Krilovich, CEO, Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts

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- Danna Mauch, PhD, President and CEO, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
 - Eileen McAnney, President, Employer Coalition on Health NEW
 - Nancy McGovern, Director of Healthcare and Retirement Advocacy, Mass Retirees Association NEW
 - Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Alliance
 - Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans
 - Christine Schuster, President and CEO, Emerson Health
 - Alex Sheff, Senior Director, Policy & Government Relations, Health Care For All NEW
 - Joseph Shields, CEO, Transparency-Rx NEW
 - Monica Vohra, MD, Chief Medical Officer, DotHouse Health Center NEW
 - Harry Weissman, Executive Director, Disability Policy Consortium
 - Erika Wilkinson, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
 - Steven Winn, President and CEO, Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

Ex Officio Members

- Audrey Gasteier, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Connector
- Andrew Jackmauh, Acting Executive Director and Chief of Staff, Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis
- Matthew Venno, Executive Director, Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission.

ECOH Joins the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

In an effort to collaborate with other purchaser groups across the country and learn from their experiences and best practices, ECOH has joined the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. The Alliance, working with and through purchaser coalitions, helps employers and purchasers deliver affordable, high-quality, equitable healthcare for employees and their families. The National Alliance and its member coalitions do this by driving transparent, fair, and competitive markets; effective purchasing; and meaningful policy changes at federal, state, and local levels.

Learn more about NAHPC [here](#).

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Employer Coalition on Health