



Contact:

Rob McLaughlin
617-538-3529

Statement by Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, on Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Transition

July 11, 2025

“Secretary Walsh did a wonderful job navigating a myriad of complex issues during her tenure. When the Steward crisis occurred, she was the right person to handle a complex set of critical and difficult issues. With her deep understanding of the hospital industry, she was able to ensure that most Steward hospitals were transferred to new not for profit operators and remained open for patients. This was not the case in other states where many Steward hospitals closed.

“Incoming Secretary Kiame Mahaniah is a strong and compassionate leader. He brings a wealth of expertise and a firm commitment to community-based healthcare. We look forward to working with him on a variety of issues, including primary care reform and navigating federal changes that will impact the MassHealth program and the state’s Health Connector.”

###