



**CONTACT: Rob McLaughlin
617-538-3529**

Statement by Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, on the Health Policy Commission’s setting of the Massachusetts Cost Growth Benchmark for 2027

April 16, 2026

“The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans applauds the Health Policy Commission for setting the 2027 cost growth benchmark at 3.6 percent. At a time when affordability is the number one concern for employers and families, maintaining a strong, consistent benchmark is critical.

The benchmark is one of the Commonwealth’s most important tools for driving accountability across the health care system. More than 40 state reports have made clear that rising costs are driven by increasing prices for hospital services and prescription drugs, not administrative spending. Health plans are doing their part, but we cannot solve this challenge alone. Hospitals, providers, and pharmaceutical manufacturers must be held accountable for meeting the benchmark.

Today’s decision is an important step, but the work ahead must focus on meaningful enforcement and policy solutions that address the underlying drivers of cost growth. Massachusetts has led on coverage and access; now we must lead on affordability.”

###