



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority
100 City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02108*

CHARLIE BAKER
Governor

KARYN POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Board Chair

LOUIS GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

July 24, 2017

Pursuant to its authority under St. 2015, ch. 119 § 20, the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (Health Connector) announces its intent to submit a request for a State Innovation Waiver (Waiver Request) under Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Affordable Care Act) or other available federal flexibility pathways to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and/or U.S. Department of Treasury on or after August 25, 2017.

1. Opportunities for Public Comment

The Health Connector welcomes public comment on its Flexibility Requests, as detailed below.

Publicly Available Materials

Materials describing the Flexibility Requests may be obtained on the Health Connector's website: <https://betterhealthconnector.com/about/policy-center/state-innovation-waiver/>. Additional updates and final submissions will also be posted on this website. Paper copies of the documents may be obtained in person by request from 9:00 AM through 5:00 PM EST at the Health Connector, 100 City Hall Plaza, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02018.

Open Public Meetings

The Health Connector will host two listening sessions on the proposed Waiver Request. All persons desiring to be heard on these matters should appear at the designated place and time. The meeting details are as follows:

- **Listening Session #1:**
Date: Friday, August 4, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Location: 1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor, Boston MA
Conference Line: 1-888-822-7517 Participant Code: 163 4530#
Directions are available here:
http://www.mass.edu/meetings/documents/DirectionsandParking_OneAshburtonPlace.pdf.
- **Listening Session #2:**
Date: August 16, 2017

Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA

Conference Line: 1-888-822-7517 Participant Code: 163 4530#

Directions: <http://castleofknights.com/directions/>

Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the beginning of the hearing to sign in. Members of the public are also encouraged to bring a written copy of their testimony for the record. For other rules regarding the conduct of the hearings, please see: <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/wp-content/uploads/rules-and-regulations/PublicHearingGuidelines.pdf>.

To request a reasonable accommodation in order to attend and/or participate in the public hearing, please contact: Emily Brice, Deputy Chief of Policy and Strategy: StateInnovations@MassMail.State.MA.US, 617-933-3156. If you need an interpreter or other assistive device, please provide at least two (2) business days advance notice to the Health Connector stating the type of accommodation needed.

Written Public Comment Period

The Health Connector will accept public comments on the proposed Flexibility Requests through 5:00 PM EST on Friday, August 25, 2017. Comments must be received by this deadline in order to be considered. Written comments may be delivered by e-mail or mail. By e-mail, please send comments to: StateInnovations@MassMail.State.MA.US and include "Comments for 1332 Waiver Request" in the subject line. By mail, please send comments to: Emily Brice, Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, 100 City Hall Plaza, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02018.

2. Summary of Federal Flexibility Requests

Massachusetts led the nation in 2006 with a comprehensive health care reform law that established the Massachusetts Health Connector, a new marketplace designed to make affordable health insurance available to more people. Even with this progress, Massachusetts continues to strive to improve its health care system. Now the Commonwealth is exploring options under national health reform that would offer greater flexibility to improve health coverage and maintain market stability in Massachusetts. In order to ensure that the Massachusetts health insurance market remains stable, sustainable, and vigorous in the future, Massachusetts has identified opportunities to adjust or re-examine particular federal policies in areas that could further strengthen the employer-sponsored coverage and ensure stability in the commercial insurance market more broadly. Specifically, the Commonwealth seeks flexibility to:

- Promote Market Stability with a Premium Stabilization Fund in Lieu of Cost-Sharing Reductions;
- Revive State Employer Shared Responsibility Program in Lieu of Delayed and Less Comprehensive Federal Program;
- Revive Permissibility of Section 125 Plans for Non-Benefits Eligible Employees to Enhance Consumer Savings and Promote Private Coverage;
- Permission for Commonwealth to Administer the Federal Small Business Health Care Tax Credit;
- Allow for State Option to Continue to Use Select State-Based Rating Factors; and
- Commence a Process to Evaluate Future of Risk Adjustment in the Commonwealth.

Additional details of Massachusetts' request are available at:

<https://betterhealthconnector.com/about/policy-center/state-innovation-waiver/>

To get this information in English **large print**, call 617-933-3156. **TTY: 1-877-623-7773.**

Important! This has important information about your health insurance. If you want the information translated into your own language, call **617-933-3156**.

¡Importante! Esto tiene información importante sobre su seguro de salud. Si usted quiere la información traducida a su propio idioma, llame al **617-933-3156**.

Spanish

សំខាន់! គួរ ដឹង រមែង ព័ត៌មាន សំខាន់ អំពី ធានារ៉ាប់រង សុខភាព របស់ អ្នក ។ បបសិ លេបី អ្នក ចង់ បា ព័ត៌មាន បែប ភាសា របស់ អ្នក សូម ទូរស័ព្ទ មក លេខ **617-933-3156** ។ Cambodian

重要提示：該文件載有關於您的醫療保險的重要資訊。如果您想要將相關資訊翻譯為您的母語，請致電 **617-933-3156**。

Traditional Chinese

重要提示：该文件载有关于您的医疗保险的重要信息。如果您想要将相关信息翻译为您的母语，请致电 **617-933-3156**。

Simplified Chinese

Enpòtan! Sa a gen enfòmasyon enpòtan ou asirans sante ou. Si w vle nou tradwi enfòmasyon an nan pwòp lang ou rele **617-933-3156**.

Haitian Creole

ສິ່ງສຳຄັນ! ນີ້ມີຂໍ້ມູນທີ່ສຳຄັນກ່ຽວກັບການປະກັນໄພສຸຂະພາບຂອງທ່ານ. ຖ້າທ່ານກຳລັງຖາມ ຫຼື ມີຂໍ້ມູນຂ່າວສານເຂົ້າໃນການແປພາສາໂທທາ **617-933-3156** ຂອງຕົນເອງຂອງທ່ານ. Laotian

Importante! Neste pacote há informações importantes sobre o seu seguro-saúde. Se quiser que as informações sejam traduzidas para o seu idioma, ligue para **617-933-3156**.

Brazilian Portuguese

Importante! Contém informações importantes sobre o seu seguro de saúde. Se desejar a tradução das informações para a sua língua, contacte-nos pelo telefone **617-933-3156**.

European Portuguese

Важная информация! Здесь содержится важная информация о Вашем медицинском страховании. Если Вы хотите, чтобы информация была переведена на Ваш родной язык, позвоните по номеру: **617-933-3156**.

Russian

Lưu ý quan trọng! Đây là thông tin quan trọng về bảo hiểm y tế của quý vị. Nếu quý vị muốn có bản dịch thông tin này bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị, hãy gọi số **617-933-3156**.

Vietnamese

هام! يتضمن هذا معلومات مهمة عن تأمينك الصحي. إذا كنت تريد ترجمة المعلومات إلى لغتك فاتصل برقم **617-933-3156**.

Arabic