

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 19, 2021

Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Acting Administrator Fenton:

We are writing in support of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' request for consideration as a pilot program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Vaccination Center Pilot Partnerships Program. If chosen, Massachusetts will utilize this program to support vaccination efforts in underserved communities across the state as part of an ongoing effort to reach vulnerable populations.

Earlier this week, Massachusetts announced a targeted outreach initiative in 20 municipalities across the state that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These communities are: Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, and Worcester. Throughout the pandemic, these cities and towns – particularly Black and Latinx residents and essential workers – have felt the greatest burden from the pandemic and the economic recession. It is critical that the Commonwealth receive additional resources to equitably administer the vaccines and to ensure that it is accessible to these communities.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) will direct investments into these communities, working closely with local officials, community leaders, and faith-based organizations to improve public messaging about the COVID-19 vaccines and address barriers to access. The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers received a \$1 million grant from the Commonwealth to supplement these efforts and to support our community health centers in their vital outreach work to individuals and families hesitant about the vaccinations.

A pilot program designation would provide the necessary resources and support to complement these ongoing efforts by the Commonwealth to target these disproportionately impacted communities. According to state officials, more than half of Massachusetts residents age 75 and

older received their first vaccine dose as of February 15. On February 18, the Commonwealth opened vaccination appointments to individuals 65 and older and those with two or more qualifying medical conditions.

Given Massachusetts' record as a national leader in health care and public health, we are confident that the state is well-suited to receive this vital support to help prioritize these medically underserved communities that have greatly suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly support the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' request for designation as a pilot program site and ask that you give their request your fair and full consideration. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



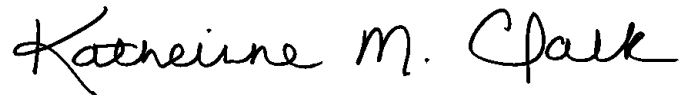
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



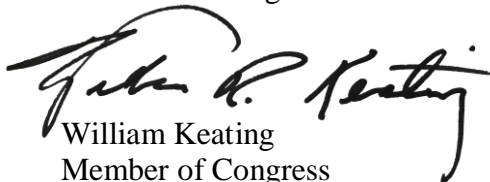
James McGovern
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



William Keating
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
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Jake Auchincloss
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