



## ***Answering the Call to Care Getting Started***

Educating each legislator is critically important to ensuring investments in quality nursing home care are made in the state budget. It's important to establish and cultivate ongoing relationships with elected officials in your district to help facilitate the education process.

### **Opportunities to Meet With Your Legislators:**

- ❖ Invite him/her to attend a Legislative Breakfast, a Resident's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party or any other celebration at your facility
- ❖ Schedule a meeting at the State House or District Office
- ❖ Attend a community event sponsored by him/her

## ***Tips for Communicating with Your Legislators***

### **They want to hear from you!**

Below, you will find several tips to assist you when meeting, calling or writing your legislators. When communicating with your legislators, it is always helpful to be brief, specific and to illustrate how the issue will affect the citizens who reside or work within the legislator's district. Sample talking points and a fact sheet for communicating with your legislators can be found on page 5. Communication with legislators is mutually beneficial because:

- ❖ You are the expert on long term care issues. Due to their heavy workloads, legislators have to be generalists on a host of issues.
- ❖ Legislators consider how every issue will impact the district. You provide them with this information/knowledge, as both a constituent and a long term care provider.

### **Meeting Your Legislator**

1. Thank your legislator for taking the time to meet with you and be sure to acknowledge and thank your legislator if he/she has been supportive of senior care related issues (such as co-sponsoring MSCA legislation/amendments). MSCA can provide you with this information.
2. State who you are, the organization you represent and introduce others with you by name and affiliation. Discuss your issue/request in an organized manner. It is helpful to provide your legislator with a fact sheet (provided on page 5) and, if applicable, a bill number or budget line item if you are discussing specific legislation. MSCA can provide you with this information.
3. Follow up the meeting with a thank you letter to your legislator and any aides who may have participated in the meeting.

### Calling Your Legislator

1. Ask to speak to your legislator. If he/she is unavailable, ask to speak with the legislative aide who works on health care issues.
2. Identify yourself, where you are calling from and the reason for your call. State your issue/request in an organized manner. Try to be concise and clear about what you are asking for.
3. If possible, keep the call short and thank the legislator or legislative aide for his/her consideration.

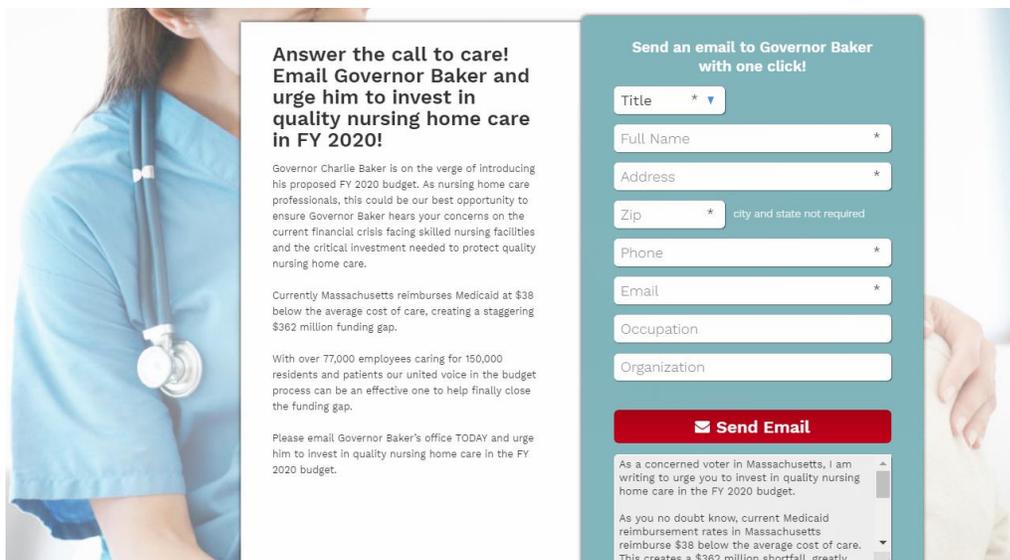
### Writing Your Legislators

Include your name, address and telephone number on the letterhead. Be sure to state the legislation, bill number or budget line item you are writing about. To ensure that the legislator receives the letter, address the letter as follows:

The Honorable [First Name Last Name]  
State House, Room [Room Number]  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

### Email Your Legislators

Throughout the legislative campaign we will also allow send action alerts with a link that will allow you to easily send emails directly to your elected officials:



**Answer the call to care!  
Email Governor Baker and urge him to invest in quality nursing home care in FY 2020!**

Governor Charlie Baker is on the verge of introducing his proposed FY 2020 budget. As nursing home care professionals, this could be our best opportunity to ensure Governor Baker hears your concerns on the current financial crisis facing skilled nursing facilities and the critical investment needed to protect quality nursing home care.

Currently Massachusetts reimburses Medicaid at \$38 below the average cost of care, creating a staggering \$362 million funding gap.

With over 77,000 employees caring for 150,000 residents and patients our united voice in the budget process can be an effective one to help finally close the funding gap.

Please email Governor Baker's office TODAY and urge him to invest in quality nursing home care in the FY 2020 budget.

**Send an email to Governor Baker with one click!**

Title \* ▾

Full Name \*

Address \*

Zip \* city and state not required

Phone \*

Email \*

Occupation

Organization

**Send Email**

As a concerned voter in Massachusetts, I am writing to urge you to invest in quality nursing home care in the FY 2020 budget.

As you no doubt know, current Medicaid reimbursement rates in Massachusetts reimburse \$38 below the average cost of care. This creates a \$362 million shortfall, greatly