

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

January 23, 2017

Speaker Robert A. DeLeo  
Massachusetts State House, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg  
Massachusetts State House, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Rosenberg & Speaker DeLeo,

On Thursday, January 19th, the House Ways & Means Committee held a hearing on the recommendation of the Special Advisory Commission Regarding the Compensation of Public Officials. The attached chart is from that commission's report. Notable in this report is the recommendation to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President, which would see the salaries for their positions increase by over 70% each.

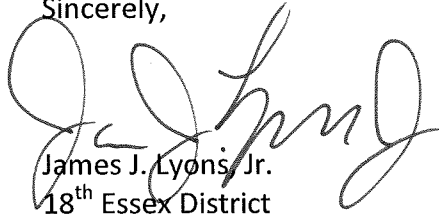
The U.S. average salary of the top 11 Senate Presidents is \$84,591. The recommendation of the commission is to pay the Massachusetts Senate President \$175,000. We find this recommendation, with such dramatic increases, to be indefensible. There is no evidence presented in the commission report that validates an increase in the Senate President's salary to be 108% more than the average of the top eleven salaries of other senate presidents. This recommendation should be rejected.

Similarly, the average salary of the top eleven salaries for the office of Speaker of the House is \$86,520. The recommendation of the commission is to pay the Speaker \$175,000. There is no evidence presented in the commission report that validates an increase in the Speaker's salary to be 102% more than the average of the top 11 salaries of Speakers of the House. We believe this recommendation is equally indefensible and should also be rejected.

At a time where revenues have not delivered against predictions and 9C cuts have been implemented, a proposal to increase the pay of legislative leadership would signal an attitude of indifference to the hard working families of the Commonwealth.

We would urge you to join us and reject the recommendations of the Special Advisory Commission Regarding the Compensation of Public Officials. Thank you for your attention on this matter.

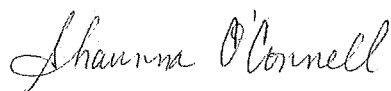
Sincerely,



James J. Lyons, Jr.  
18<sup>th</sup> Essex District



Geoff Diehl  
7<sup>th</sup> Plymouth District



Shaunna O'Connell  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bristol District



Marc Lombardo  
22<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex District

Table B-7

Comparison of Proposed Massachusetts Salaries Paid to Legislative Leaders With Those in Other States with Full-Time Legislatures After Adjusting for Cost of Living (Continued)

| State                | Senate President |               | Senate President |               | No. of Constituents Served by Each Senator |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--|
|                      | Pay              | Rank Among 11 | Pay - Adjusted   | Rank Among 11 |  |
| Alaska               | \$50,900         | 9             | \$42,917         | 10            | 36,757                                     |
| California           | \$109,584        | 4             | \$91,933         | 5             | 958,313                                    |
| Florida              | \$41,181         | 11            | \$40,493         | 11            | 488,822                                    |
| Illinois             | \$95,313         | 5             | \$89,749         | 6             | 113,438                                    |
| <b>Massachusetts</b> | <b>\$175,000</b> | <b>1</b>      | <b>\$147,929</b> | <b>1</b>      | <b>167,321</b>                             |
| Michigan             | \$76,647         | 7             | \$78,693         | 7             | 260,411                                    |
| New Jersey           | \$65,317         | 8             | \$58,423         | 8             | 222,483                                    |
| New York             | \$121,000        | 3             | \$105,309        | 3             | 311,923                                    |
| Ohio                 | \$94,437         | 6             | \$95,199         | 4             | 350,631                                    |
| Pennsylvania         | \$131,148        | 2             | \$129,593        | 2             | 255,476                                    |
| Wisconsin            | \$49,943         | 10            | \$49,108         | 9             | 174,022                                    |

| State                | House Speaker    |               | House Speaker    |               |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
|                      | Pay              | Rank Among 11 | Pay - Adjusted   | Rank Among 11 |
| Alaska               | \$50,900         | 9             | \$42,917         | 10            |
| California           | \$109,584        | 4             | \$91,933         | 6             |
| Florida              | \$41,181         | 11            | \$40,493         | 11            |
| Illinois             | \$95,313         | 6             | \$89,749         | 7             |
| <b>Massachusetts</b> | <b>\$175,000</b> | <b>1</b>      | <b>\$147,929</b> | <b>1</b>      |
| Michigan             | \$98,685         | 5             | \$101,319        | 4             |
| New Jersey           | \$65,317         | 8             | \$58,423         | 8             |
| New York             | \$121,000        | 3             | \$105,309        | 3             |
| Ohio                 | \$94,437         | 7             | \$95,199         | 5             |
| Pennsylvania         | \$130,034        | 2             | \$128,492        | 2             |
| Wisconsin            | \$50,243         | 10            | \$49,403         | 9             |