



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS BLACK AND LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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REP. CARLOS GONZÁLEZ, CHAIR  
10<sup>th</sup> Hampden District

April 10, 2020

LUCAS A. DEBARROS  
Executive Director

REP. JOSÉ F. TOSADO, VICE CHAIR  
9<sup>th</sup> Hampden District

Delivered via email

REP. CHYNAH TYLER, TREASURER  
7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
24 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02133

REP. BUD L. WILLIAMS, CLERK  
11<sup>th</sup> Hampden District

SENATOR

SEN. SONIA CHANG-DÍAZ  
2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk District

Re: Crisis Standards of Care

REPRESENTATIVES

REP. RUSSELL E. HOLMES  
6<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

Honorable Governor Baker,

REP. FRANK MORAN  
17<sup>th</sup> Essex District

Echoing their concerns, we the undersigned join the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus in support of their recommendations below and respectfully request that you act on them swiftly.

REP. AARON VEGA  
5<sup>th</sup> Hampden District

It is apparent, due to the COVID-19 crisis and ventilator shortage, that difficult decisions will have to be made when it comes to deciding who receives treatment. However, communicating with community leaders and physicians from major hospitals in Massachusetts has raised concern among us regarding the Department of Public Health's recommended Crisis Standards of Care.

REP. ANDRES VARGAS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Essex District

These Standards, when utilized, will determine life or death situations by a point system, with those points obtained and determined based on what specific health conditions an individual has. The potential comorbidities to be considered, be it major and/or severe, may disproportionately affect communities of color due to long standing health disparities. It is apparent that some severe diseases and conditions may warrant a standard of care protocol; however, utilizing points for conditions that we already know are rampant in low-income communities due to health disparities is unconscionable.

REP. MARCOS DEVERS  
16<sup>th</sup> Essex District

REP. NIKA ELUGARDO  
15<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

REP. LIZ MIRANDA  
5<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

REP. JON SANTIAGO  
9<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District

We recommend:

1. Updating or pausing any implementation of any point system in the Crisis Standard of Care for Massachusetts.
2. Assuring all safety-net hospitals receive adequate PPE, ventilators and resources.
3. Appointing a COVID-19 diversity advisory task force.
4. Assuring all new executive orders and policies incorporate a racial/ethnicity equity lens to address any foreseeable cultural and linguistic challenges.
5. Increasing testing in communities of color.

We look forward to hearing from you on how we can work to address this urgent matter facing our State.

Sincerely,

Rep. Carlos González, Chair  
10th Hampden District

Rep. José F. Tosado, Vice Chair  
9th Hampden District

Rep. Chynah Tyler, Treasurer  
7th Suffolk District

Rep. Bud L. Williams, Clerk  
11th Hampden District

Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz, Member  
Second Suffolk District

Rep. Russell E. Holmes, Member  
6th Suffolk District

Rep. Frank Moran, Member  
17th Essex District

Rep. Aaron Vega, Member  
5th Hampden District

Rep. Andy Vargas, Member  
3rd Essex District

Rep. Marcos Devers, Member  
16th Essex District

Rep. Nika Elugardo, Member  
15th Suffolk District

Rep. Liz Miranda, Member  
5th Suffolk District

Rep. Jon Santiago, Member  
9th Suffolk District

Rep. Ruth B. Balseer  
12th Middlesex District

Rep. Christine Barber  
34th Middlesex District

Rep. Natalie M. Blais  
1st Franklin District

Sen. Michael Brady  
Second Plymouth and  
Bristol District

Rep. Antonio F. D. Cabral  
13th Bristol District

Rep. Dan Cahill  
10th Essex District

Rep. Peter Capano  
11th Essex District

Rep. Daniel R. Carey  
2nd Hampshire District

Rep. Gerry Cassidy  
9th Plymouth District

Rep. Tackey Chan  
2nd Norfolk District

Rep. Michelle Ciccolo  
15th Middlesex District

Sen. Nick Collins  
First Suffolk District

Sen. Joanne Comerford  
Hampshire, Franklin and  
Worcester District

Rep. Mike Connolly  
26th Middlesex District

Sen. Brendan P. Crighton  
Third Essex District

Rep. Michael Day  
31st Middlesex District

Rep. Mindy Domb  
3rd Hampshire District

Rep. Michelle Dubois  
10th Plymouth District

Sen. James Eldridge  
Middlesex and Worcester District

Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier  
3rd Berkshire District

Rep. Denise Garlick  
13th Norfolk District

Rep. Tami L. Gouveia  
14th Middlesex District

Rep. Patricia Haddad  
5th Bristol District

Rep. Jonathan Hecht  
29th Middlesex District

Rep. Natalie Higgins  
4th Worcester District

Sen. Adam G. Hinds  
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and  
Hampden District

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17th Suffolk District

Sen. Patricia Jehlen  
Second Middlesex District

Rep. Mary Keefe  
15th Worcester District

Rep. Kay Khan  
11th Middlesex District

Rep. Kathleen LaNatra  
12th Plymouth District

Rep. David H.A LeBoeuf  
17th Worcester District

Rep. Jack Patrick Lewis  
7th Middlesex District

Rep. Adrian Madaro  
1st Suffolk District

Rep. Joe McGonagle  
28th Middlesex District

Rep. Christina Minicucci  
14th Essex District

Rep. Brian W. Murray  
10th Worcester District

Rep. Tram T. Nguyen  
18th Essex District

Rep. Denise Provost  
27th Middlesex District

Sen. Becca Rausch  
Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex  
District

Rep. Maria Duaine Robinson  
6th Middlesex District

Rep. John Rogers  
12th Norfolk District

Rep. Dan Ryan  
2nd Suffolk District

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa  
1st Hampshire District

Rep. Steven Ultrino  
33rd Middlesex District

Rep. Tommy Vitolo  
15th Norfolk District

Sen. James T. Welch  
Hampden District

Rep. Susannah Whipps  
2nd Franklin District