

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108 (617) 573-1600



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January 27, 2025

Chair Michael Rodrigues Senate Committee on Ways and Means State House Room, Room 212 Boston, MA 02133

Mr. Michael D. Hurley Senate Clerk State House, Room 335 Boston, MA 02133 Chair Aaron Michlewitz House Committee on Ways and Means State House, Room 243 Boston, MA 02133

> Mr. Steven T. James House Clerk State House, Room 145 Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Rodrigues, Chair Michlewitz, Mr. Hurley and Mr. James:

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 29, Section 2KKKKK requires that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) provide a report detailing all money transferred, credited or deposited into and from the Nonpublic Ambulance Service Reimbursement Trust Fund (the Trust Fund), as well as the reasons for any unspent funding and an analysis of the uniform assessment paid by nonpublic ambulance providers.

In May 2023, EOHHS implemented a pause in the ambulance assessment. This pause was instituted because CMS issued an Informational Bulletin on February 17, 2023, reiterating certain federal requirements that pertain to health care-related taxes such as the nonpublic ambulance assessment, including a prohibition on so-called "hold harmless" arrangements established entirely by non-state actors.

This pause was lifted in March 2024, in conjunction with a new requirement that providers attest that they were not parties to any hold harmless arrangements.

During the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, providers were assessed for two quarters, totaling \$6,716,926. For this same period, providers paid a total of \$4,371,893.08 up until June 20, 2024.¹

For this same period July 1, 2023, through June 2024, EOHHS paid MassHealth supplemental payments for two quarters to all providers who attested they were not parties to hold harmless arrangements. These payments totaled \$13,097,392.00.

¹ Providers paid an additional \$1,671,095.29 in July and August 2024.

There is not any unspent funding in the trust fund. EOHHS has paid supplemental payments in anticipation of the payment of assessment payments that are owed.

Please contact Sarah Nordberg at <u>Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov</u> should you have any questions about this report.

Sincerely,

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Mike Levine

cc: Kathleen E. Walsh