

May 6, 2021

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Office of the Governor  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 280  
Boston, MA, 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

We are in receipt of the economic parameters that your Administration put forth for collective bargaining. We are writing to inform you that we collectively reject your parameters and have never been more united in our commitment to work together to achieve collective bargaining agreements that our respective organizations can be proud of and more importantly that our members, who are your employees, are deserving of.

The growing economic evidence, as supported by strong data, suggests that we will emerge from the pandemic in a strong position to meet the challenges of tomorrow. To date, tax revenues are nearly \$1.83 billion above the original benchmark. Additionally, the state is earmarked to receive \$4.55 billion in federal aid alone from the American Rescue Plan. This is on top of more than \$3 billion for Massachusetts cities and towns, also in the American Rescue Plan. It is clear that Massachusetts has the resources to ensure that its workers keep pace with the cost of living at a minimum.

Your administration led us to believe that a serious offer was forthcoming for more than a month. The parameters you offered are an insult to your workforce, a workforce that has met the challenges of a pandemic and showed up every day to keep the Commonwealth running for the citizens of Massachusetts. Our members and their families deserve better. They deserve a Governor who will support them with more than a smile and an empty “thank you.”

As stated above, we are united like never before in our campaign for a wage increase that reflects the gratitude that our members deserve. We welcome the opportunity for further discussion on this matter and hope that you will see how misguided your parameters are, especially as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and economic downturn in a very strong position, in large part due to the sacrifices and dedicated service of the very employees who you are turning your back on. It is time to reconsider your position and do the right thing. Your employees deserve it.

In Solidarity,

David J. Holway  
President, National Association of Government Employees

Merrie Najimy  
President, Massachusetts Teachers Association

Michael D’Intinosanto, RN  
Executive Chair, Unit 7 – Massachusetts Nurses Association

Peter MacKinnon  
President, SEIU Local 509

Thomas McKeever  
President, SEIU Local 888

Mark Bernard  
Executive Director, AFSCME Council 93

Patrick Russell  
President, MOSES

Philip C. Basile  
Chief Field Services/Legal Officer, OPEIU Local 6