



National Association of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

September 24, 2019

Mr. Martin T. Meehan
President
University of Massachusetts
One Beacon Street, 31st Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear President Meehan,

As the Baker Administration prepares to unilaterally implement an illegal tax on its employees related to the new PFMLA program, the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) would like to openly thank the growing list of public employers who have agreed to cover 100% of PFMLA costs for their employees. In recent weeks, the following public employers have all indicated that they would pay 100% of the PFMLA assessment cost: Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Auditor Suzanne Bump, Speaker Bob DeLeo (House staff), Senate President Karen Spilka (Senate Staff), as well as all MA County Sheriffs (pending completion of collective bargaining).

I am again imploring the University of Massachusetts to do the right thing and join the ranks of public employers covering the PFMLA assessment costs for their employees.

The decision to pay the full costs of the PFMLA program for employees is a clear acknowledgement of the commitment and dedication that public employees make to the Commonwealth each day. Treasurer Goldberg, Auditor Bump, Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Spilka, and all MA Sheriffs should all be commended for leading by example.

On the flip side, Governor Baker continues to disrespect his employees and the collective bargaining process itself. The actions of the public leaders mentioned above are in stark contrast to the Governor, and it speaks volumes about them not only as leaders, but as employers. Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Spilka played critical roles in the development and passage of the new PFMLA law which will benefit our working families, but it did not end there. They have continued to walk the walk by setting an example for employers around the state. Please take into consideration being a leader in the public sector and taking this burden off your employee's shoulders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David J. Holway'.

David J. Holway
National President