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May 7, 2026

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

Dear Chair Rodrigues,

On behalf of the over 23,000 physician, resident, and student members of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), we extend our sincere gratitude for your leadership in producing S.3072 (PROTECT Act). The MMS asserts that health care is a basic human right and we support designating health care facilities as sensitive locations by law. Accordingly, we believe S.3072 represents a critical and timely effort to uphold the health, dignity, and well-being of all Massachusetts residents. When patients avoid care or withhold information due to immigration concerns, it leads to delayed treatment and worse health outcomes. The PROTECT Act will help preserve trust, confidentiality, and the ability of physicians to provide safe, effective care.

We also believe the following amendments would strengthen the Senate's commitment to ensuring individuals feel safe accessing health care, and we respectfully request to be recorded in support of:

Amendment #12, Protecting the Rights of Patients in ICE Detention

This amendment ensures that detained patients retain fundamental rights, including access to legal counsel, the ability to communicate with loved ones, and control over their personal health information. By requiring that patients are informed of their rights in a language they understand and establishing clear standards for interactions with federal agents, amendment 12 promotes ethical care and safeguards patient dignity during vulnerable moments.

Amendment #13, Health Care Worker Anti-Retaliation Protections

This amendment further strengthens S.3072 by protecting health care workers, volunteers, and patients from retaliation when acting in compliance with the law. These anti-retaliation and liability protections are essential to ensuring that physicians and other members of the health care team can uphold their professional and legal obligations without fear. This clarity enables health care workers to prioritize patient care and uphold patient rights.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Olivia C. Liao, MD, FACS

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