

September 10, 2014

The Honorable Kenneth I. Gordon  
State Representative, 21<sup>st</sup> Middlesex District  
State House, Room 39  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Gordon,

All of us who care about improving our health care system recognize that we are in the midst of unprecedented and exciting change, from efforts to decrease the cost of care to efforts to better integrate mental health services. For Lahey Health, these dynamics create many opportunities for us to add value to our innovative care delivery model so our that patients continue to have affordable and convenient access to a full continuum of integrated services close to where they live and work. Our patients, many of whom reside in Burlington, Bedford, and Wilmington, are fortunate to have such a thoughtful and committed legislator to represent them on Beacon Hill as we move forward together in a joint effort to strengthen the state's health care system.

Thanks to your leadership in the House of Representatives, your constituents will soon receive the benefit of an improved behavioral health care system. The state's new transparency law will ensure that clinicians understand the profound impact that contractual terms may have on their ability to treat patients in the correct setting and at the right time. In addition, your commitment to passing a new law to combat the recent substance abuse epidemic resulted in the removal of a significant barrier that prevented many patients from accessing inpatient and step-down care for those in need of acute treatment for addiction. These innovative patient protection measures are first in the nation, and will hopefully serve as models for other states seeking to facilitate access to behavioral health services.

Congratulations on a remarkably successful legislative session and thank you for your leadership on these critical health care issues. You and your colleagues deserve a great deal of credit for confronting these challenges in a meaningful and pragmatic manner. I am personally looking forward to working with you next legislative session so that we can continue to build on your accomplishments and improve access to high quality, affordable health care in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Howard R. Grant, JD, MD