



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02193-1054

TODD M. SMOLA
REPRESENTATIVE
1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT

WALES • HOLLAND • PALMER • WARE
BRIMFIELD • STURBRIDGE • WARREN

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 156

TEL. (617) 722-2240

FAX: (617) 722-2774

Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov
Jaclyn.Keshian@mahouse.gov

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Contact: Jaclyn Keshian
617-722-2240

REPRESENTATIVE SMOLA ANNOUNCES CHART FUNDING FOR BAYSTATE MARY LANE HOSPITAL

BOSTON – State Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) today announced that the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) has awarded Baystate Mary Lane Hospital \$900,000 as part of a joint hospital funding proposal with Franklin Medical Center and Wing Memorial Hospital. This funding comes from Phase 2 of the Community Hospital Acceleration, Revitalization, and Transformation (CHART) Investment Program and will be used to support the enhancement of telehealth services across the Baystate Health system. This investment is a continuation and expansion of CHART Phase 1 work and will maximize retention of patients in select service lines in inpatient and outpatient settings.

“The funding presented in the CHART Investment Program is designed to help reduce health care costs in the Commonwealth by strengthening our community hospitals and by better correlating community hospital services and capabilities with the health care needs of the communities they serve,” said Representative Smola. “Baystate Mary Lane Hospital is making an important investment in enhancing the delivery of high quality health care in our community, and I look forward to seeing all that they are able to achieve as a result of this funding.”

The HPC, an independent state agency created through the Legislature’s health care cost containment law, Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, approved \$60 million in investments to 28 Massachusetts community hospitals through Phase 2 of the CHART Investment Program. Over four years, CHART will disperse up to \$120 million for community-oriented projects led by Massachusetts community hospitals. The Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP) called for innovative, high-impact proposals that enhance behavioral health care, focus on care for patients with complex medical and social needs, reduce inappropriate hospital use, and support processes that reduce waste while improving safety.

“Massachusetts community hospitals are high quality, cost-efficient providers of health care that serve patients where they live,” said Executive Director David Seltz. “Today’s awards show that the HPC is committed to partnering with Representative Smola and community hospitals to help the Commonwealth achieve our goals of health care cost containment and quality improvement.”

Over the next six months, the HPC will support and monitor the implementation activities of CHART hospitals, in order to assess these new initiatives' impacts on health care cost and quality. This engagement will strengthen future phases of the CHART Program. In January 2014, Phase 1 of the CHART Investment Program released \$10 million to community hospitals for projects ranging from patient care pilots for diabetes treatment to behavioral health integration programs.

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