May 18, 1976

The Honorable Paul Tsongas
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Tsongas:

I am pleased to forward to you a "White Paper on Health Care Expenditures in Massachusetts" which was developed at my request by the Health Planning and Policy Committee of the Commonwealth to document the rapid rise of costs and expenditures in the health field in Massachusetts.

The paper presents a number of specific proposals to address this problem.

Over the next three to four months the Health Planning and Policy Committee, chaired by Secretary of Human Services Jerald Stevens and coordinated by Public Health Commissioner Jonathan Fielding, will refine these proposals and develop plans for their implementation. In this process they will consider carefully the recommendations received from a wide range of groups and individuals interested in health policy in Massachusetts.

We would particularly appreciate receiving any suggestions which you or members of your staff might have regarding the measures proposed.

We have also sent the White Paper to members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and the House Subcommittee on Health and Environment.

In the years ahead we will continue to face the difficult task of allocating limited resources to meet virtually unlimited demands in the health field. Because the decision that must be made will significantly affect the lives of every citizen in the Commonwealth, I believe it is essential that those decisions be based on informed discussion involving all sectors of our society.
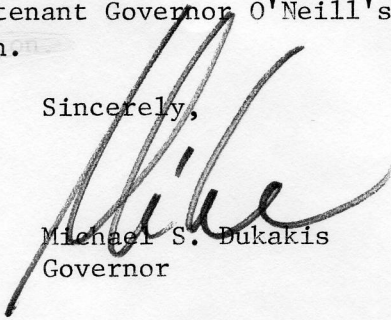
I hope this paper will contribute toward such a discussion and will serve as a useful tool in the development of health policy for the Commonwealth.

The Honorable Paul Tsongas   May 18, 1976

    If you have any questions or would like to discuss the White Paper please feel free to call me or contact Lieutenant Governor O'Neill's Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

MSD/ek