

03/03/2026 [AllUnit]: GIC's Health Insurance Cost Shift Defeated!

Your organizing works!

As a result of your testimony and advocacy – in solidarity with thousands of other union members across the state – Governor Healey has withdrawn her call for the GIC to shift health insurance costs onto workers by increasing co-pays and deductibles. You may read her letter to the GIC Board Members [here](#).

Thank you for answering the call! A special thanks to MSP members Jamie Hartmann-Boyce, Michal Horný, and Theo Schall, who published an [op-ed](#) and wrote an excellent letter to Governor Healey. We heard that their arguments and data – as well as the political downside of enraging the union – influenced the Governor’s change of heart.

The GIC is still planning to vote tomorrow on the recommendation that plans for public employees no longer cover GLP-1 medications when solely used for weight loss. We and other union presidents have urged the Governor and the GIC to find an alternative that will help state employees afford these life-changing medications. You can do likewise, if you haven’t already, by contacting Dean Robinson (deanr@polsci.umass.edu) and the GIC (gic.info@mass.gov) with your concerns and testimonials.

In Solidarity,
Jacquie Kurland and Marc Liberatore

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MTA President Max Page and Vice President Deb McCarthy issued the following statement:

“Stopping the harmful increases in the copays and deductibles that public sector workers would have had to sustain under health care cost shifts proposed by the governor is a huge victory. Thousands of MTA members were among those sending messages to the governor, GIC commission and state legislators urging them not to balance the state budget on the backs of workers. We appreciate the governor’s willingness to listen to those affected by her decisions and to reconsider proposals, like this one, that would have had a negative impact on so many families.

Had these cost shifts been adopted, it is likely that every municipal employee would have felt the impact since cities and towns that do not belong to the GIC use the commission as a benchmark for setting their own insurance plan costs.

Health care in this country is broken, but asking public employees to pay more is not the solution. Instead, workers and policymakers need to work together to come up with solutions to address the health care affordability crisis – starting with reining in pharmaceutical companies and other health care providers who are raking in record profits from our members and the Commonwealth. In that light, MTA members will continue to fight for affordable access to GLP-1 medications that have been life changing for so many people.”

Read more here: <https://massteacher.org/current-initiatives/gic>.