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 AIDS Action Committee
 Alzheimer's Assoc. of Eastern MA
 Illergren Managed Healthcare
 American Cancer Society, NE Division
 American Diabetes Assoc. MA Affiliate
 Angen, Inc.
 Arthritis Foundation, MA, Chapter
 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of MA
 AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
 Sayer Corporation
 Bath Israel Deaconess Medical Center
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 BlueCross BlueShield of MA Foundation
 Boston Health Care for the Homeless
 Boston Public Health Commission
 Boston University School of Public Health
 Brandeis University - Heller Graduate School
 Brockton Hospital
 Brookside Community Health Center
 Cambridge College
 Cambridge Health Alliance
 Center for Comm. Health, Ed, Research & Svc
 Codman Square Health Center
 Committee to End Elder Homelessness
 Community Catalyst
 Delta Dental Plan of Massachusetts
 Fallon Community Health Plan
 Gates Healthcare Associates
 GlaxoSmithKline
 Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
 Group Insurance Commission
 Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
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 Harvard University Health Services
 Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
 Health Care For All
 Health Law Advocates, Inc.
 Healthcare Financial, Inc.
 Hebrew SeniorLife
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 Mass. Assoc. of Registered Nurses
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 Mass. Chiropractic Society, Inc.
 Mass. Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
 Mass. Coalition of School Based Health Centers
 Mass. Commission Deaf & Hard of Hearing
 Mass. Council of Human Svc Providers
 Mass. Council of Community Hospitals
 Mass. Dept. of Medical Assistance
 Mass. Dept. of Mental Health
 Mass. Dept. of Mental Retardation
 Mass. Dept. of Public Health
 Mass. Developmental Disabilities Council
 Mass. Diabetic Association
 Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary
 Mass. Extended Care Federation
 Mass. General Hospital Community Health
 Mass. Health Data Consortium
 Mass. Hospital Association
 Mass. Hospital School
 Mass. League of Community Health Centers
 Mass. Medical Society
 Mass. Medical Society Alliance
 Mass. Nurses Association
 Mass. Org. of Nurse Executives
 Mass. Peer Review Organization
 Mass. Pharmacists Association
 Mass. Psychiatric Society
 Mass. Public Health Association
 Mass. Rehabilitation Commission
 Mass. Society of Optometrists
 Medical Record Bank, Inc.
 Mental Health & Substance Abuse Corps
 Merck & Company
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 The Yaffe Foundation
 Third Sector New England
 Tobacco Free Massachusetts
 UMass/Boston Health Services
 WMA of New England
 Whittier Street Neighborhood Health Center
 Wyeth-Ayerst



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TESTIMONY ON HB 2227, HB 840
Reduction of Human Exposure to Particulate Matter
July 25, 2007

The Massachusetts Health Council is an organization of 152 members working together cooperatively for health care access, affordability, quality and prevention.

Particulate matter is a leading cause of very expensive, preventable hospitalizations. Asthma is the number one preventable hospitalization in MA and is triggered by particulate matter. Not only are we concerned about the rise in asthma, particulate matter is linked to many other disorders, including COPD, lung cancer, heart attack and stroke.

According to the 2006 MA Health Council Health Status Indicator Report, *Common Health for the Commonwealth*, "Community level data is paramount in designing appropriate epidemiological studies to better explore the impacts of ambient air pollution and other factors on pediatric asthma across the state.." as well as exploring the effect of particular matter in other associated diseases. The asthma rates in MA are among the highest in the nation, MA ranking 10th among the 50 states. Asthma which takes a tremendous toll on individuals, families, the health care system and our economy is preventable because the triggers are preventable.

We must adopt policies that reduce indoor and outdoor pollutants. We must seek out areas of high concentrations of particulate matter and focus attention on resolving the exposure of our residents to this health risk. These bills are a first step in helping us do so.

We thank you for your leadership and thank you for protecting the health of the residents of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,


 Susan Servais
 Executive Director

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Susan H. Servais

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