

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 7, 2008.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LXIII, Section 5 of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am disapproving Section 3 of House Bill No. 5132, "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2009 To Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects." In addition, I offer an amendment to section 9 for the reasons explained in the accompanying letter of this same date to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I am pleased to sign the remainder of this supplemental appropriation bill. These measures are central to our plan to balance the state budget in light of the estimated revenue deficiency. They include:

- Implementing the voluntary reductions offered by the judiciary and constitutional officers;
- Authorizing line item transferability;
- Extending the deadline for municipalities to GIC to December 1;
- Transferring an additional \$200 million from the Stabilization Fund; and
- Extending the state pension funding schedule from 2023 to 2025.

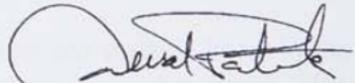
I am disapproving section 3 of the bill, which reduces the Commonwealth Corps program funding to  $\frac{1}{6}$  of its fiscal year budget. At a time of great economic uncertainty and widespread unease, engaging volunteers in direct community service is especially valuable. I have already cut the Governor's office budget by 11%.

I did so in part to assure that we would be able to afford important investments like Commonwealth Corps. Should the economy deteriorate further, and our fiscal challenges grow, I am prepared to reduce this program accordingly pursuant to G.L. c. 29, § 9C. Doing so now, especially to this degree, is neither necessary nor wise.

Section 8 of the bill doubles the proposed reduction of state investment in the life sciences, clean energy development, and strategies to reduce health care costs. The reductions I originally proposed balance our fiscal realities today with the need to invest for a stronger tomorrow. Doubling the proposed reductions may do more harm than good. However, in the spirit of compromise, I will forego my original proposal and reluctantly approve section 8.

I urge the House and Senate to act upon the remainder of the emergency measures I have placed before you.

Respectfully submitted,



DEVAL L. PATRICK,  
*Governor.*