

OPINION

Healey’s Appointees Rubber-Stamped Your Soaring Energy Bill Increase

For the past four years as Massachusetts families have continued to see their energy bills climb, every member of the commission responsible for deciding those rate increases in Massachusetts was appointed by Governor Maura Healey.

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is responsible for reviewing and approving utility rate increases. In 2023, Healey installed Jamie Van Nostrand as chair, appointed Staci Rubin as commissioner, and retained Cecile Fraser. In 2025, she replaced Van Nostrand with Jeremy McDiarmid and added Liz Anderson, while retaining Rubin. Today, all three members of the commission are Healey appointees.

These are the regulators who decide whether utilities can raise the rates that drive up electric and gas bills for Massachusetts families and businesses.

“While Maura Healey points fingers elsewhere, her DPU continues to rubber-stamp rate increases that hit Massachusetts families and businesses right in their monthly bills,” said Amy Carnevale, Chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party.

She continued, “This isn’t some distant bureaucracy. These are regulators appointed by Maura Healey, and time and again, they are approving higher costs for the people of Massachusetts. That’s not accountability, it’s a rubber stamp.”

When your next energy bill arrives higher than the last, remember that Maura Healey put these regulators in place and that she continues to stand behind their decisions.

Massachusetts ratepayers need a new kind of governor who will fight for affordability, not rubber-stamp higher costs and excuses.

Ed. Note: Opinions expressed by the MassGOP do not necessarily represent those of this newspaper and are published as a mechanism for the Republican Party to get their opinions out to the voters in an overwhelmingly so-called Blue State where their voice in the Massachusetts Legislature was severely diminished since the time when the size of the House was cut down from 240 members to 160. MA voters historically have a reputation for voting for Republicans for Higher Office such as Governor as what they deem to be a counterbalance to the rule and control of the Democratic Party at every level of State government. Opposing points of view can be expressed via letters to the editor.

References:<https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-appoints-new-dpu-commissioners-focused-on-lowering-costs-and-increasing-energy-supply>

<https://www.wbur.org/news/2025/08/26/healey-public-utilities-leadership>

MassGOP Statement on Healey - Eng Scandal

MassGOP released the following statement from Chairwoman Amy Carnevale

"The MBTA is paying nearly \$500,000 in a settlement involving Phil Eng and a public employee who reported to him, after he admitted to pulling her hair at a work dinner. That's a significant amount of taxpayer money for what has been described as an "insensitive" interaction."

"Given the size of the payout and the fact that the employee is leaving her position: Is there more to this story?"

"Healey now adds this scandal to also hiring cocaine trafficker Lamar Cook as her Western Mass Director, registered sex offender Leonard Shuster to MassDOT, and parole board appointees who release almost every murderer they review. It is time for a new kind of Governor."

Patients Benefit When Medicines Keep Improving Patents Make That Progress Possible

By Patrick Kilbride

There's never a *good* time to be diagnosed with cancer. But for the millions of Americans who'll receive that diagnosis this year, their odds of beating the disease have never been better.

Consider how over 99% of prostate cancer patients diagnosed between 2005 and 2014 were still alive a decade later, largely thanks to new and improved medicines. By contrast, only 56% of men diagnosed a generation earlier, from 1975-1984, lived more than a decade.

Unfortunately, future progress is now in jeopardy -- because policymakers are considering weakening the patent rights that make investment in lifesaving medical research possible.

Biotech research is staggeringly expensive and time-consuming and it is overwhelmingly financed by the private sector. Bringing a medicine to market typically takes more than a decade and over \$2.5 billion.

Biotech companies would never be able to justify those risks if their rivals could immediately copy any successful drugs. Patents give inventors a time-limited exclusive right to their innovation, after which others can copy that work without bearing the expense of research and development.

Crucially, patents also incentivize companies to continue improving medicines even after the initial FDA approval.

But some activist groups, such as the Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK), have convinced lawmakers that companies are gaming the patent system. They claim that companies are patenting many different aspects of their medicines to construct "patent thickets" that unfairly prevent generic competition for longer than Congress ever intended.

These groups are misrepresenting how the patent system actually works. Medicines aren't the result of a single eureka moment. A single therapy may involve separate discoveries in formulation, delivery mechanisms, manufacturing processes, dosing, or new therapeutic uses. So long as each discovery is truly novel, useful, and non-obvious, it can qualify for its own patent.

And contrary to what activist groups claim, more patents don't translate into longer periods of market exclusivity. A 2024 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) study confirmed this, finding no correlation between the number of patents on a medicine and the timing of generic competition.

Activists also claim that companies unfairly extend protection by filing additional patents on "minor" modifications -- a practice known as "evergreening." This, too, mischaracterizes how patents actually work.

Follow-on patents reflect meaningful improvements that require new research. Those new follow-on patents don't extend the term of the earlier, original ones. Each patent expires 20 years from its filing date, regardless of any later patents granted.

After that exclusivity ends, generic versions of the original drug are free to enter the market -- and they do, promptly. Generics now account for 93% of all U.S. prescriptions, the highest share in the developed world.

Simply put, activists misunderstand -- or are deliberately misrepresenting -- how the patent system works. And unfortunately, enough lawmakers have bought into these myths that they're considering several bills to weaken patent protections.

If those bills become law, and companies can't protect their medical discoveries from premature copycatting, biotech firms will be far less likely to undertake the high-risk research that produces those breakthroughs. That would mean fewer new and improved medicines for the millions of Americans battling cancer and other severe diseases. Patrick Kilbride is a Principal at Kilbride Public Affairs and a Policy Fellow at the Center for American Principles.

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In the interest of fairness

Current and former District Attorneys Kevin Hayden and Rachel Rollins are invited to submit their responses to the following questions

Early childhood experiences and education.

High School and college education and events

Community involvement prior to being elected first time

Highlights of years in public office

The question of ethics in the campaign. Your response to stories in the media recently. Handling of prosecution of police officers involved in shooting deaths in the line of duty.

Issue of police body cameras and public's access to them before trial

Deadline for submission is Tuesday, August 25, 2026 before 5 p.m.

Responses will be published as submitted. Email to boscitpap@aol.com