



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CONSUMER PROTECTION & PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
VETERANS & FEDERAL AFFAIRS

PRESS RELEASE

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A STATEMENT BY SENATOR BENJAMIN B. DOWNING REGARDING THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE FY 2011 BUDGET DEBATE

Last week I was hospitalized with a bacterial infection, causing me to miss several votes during the Senate's FY 2011 budget debate. As you know, prior to this I never missed a vote; I am very disappointed that I was unable to vote during this time.

I was released from the hospital on Wednesday, June 2nd; my treatment for the infection will continue for the next six to eight weeks on an outpatient basis. The treatment for the infection was very comprehensive due to the fact that I have an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD), which was installed as a precautionary measure based on my family medical history in 2009. Unfortunately, the infection attached itself to the ICD, necessitating replacement.

During this time my staff has done a terrific job taking care of the people of the Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin Senate District, as they always do. As I continue my treatment I will be able to serve you - in the district and at the State House - as I have for the last three and a half years. I look forward to doing just that and to seeing you out in our community as well.

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