

# HEALTH CARE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN

649 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 8 ♦ Cambridge, MA 02139 ♦ (617) 868-1280

## THE HEALTH CARE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

This is a citizen-led initiative to ensure that every Massachusetts resident has access to affordable, comprehensive and equitably financed coverage for medically necessary health and mental health care services. The proposed Health Care Constitutional Amendment requires the Commonwealth to enact laws to accomplish this goal. The Amendment does not, however, dictate any particular solution. It is instead designed as a political and legal foundation for the kind of legislative proposals that have been made by Senate President Travaglini, Governor Romney and various advocacy and business groups. Once the Legislature has, with stakeholder input, developed a concrete plan that meets all the Amendment's standards, it will be submitted to the voters for their final approval.

### The Language

SECTION 1: The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereby declare it necessary and expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment:

Upon ratification of this amendment and thereafter, it shall be the obligation and duty of the Legislature and executive officials, on behalf of the Commonwealth, to enact and implement such laws, subject to approval by the voters at a statewide election, as will ensure that no Massachusetts resident lacks comprehensive, affordable and equitably financed health insurance coverage for all medically necessary preventive, acute and chronic health care and mental health care services, prescription drugs and devices.

### The Process

- ✓ Fall, 2003: Collected 71,385 certified signatures from Massachusetts voters in 8 weeks requesting that this citizen initiative be put before the Legislature for its consideration.
- ✓ July, 2004: Approved at the 2003-04 Constitutional Convention by a vote of 153-41 – more than three times the number of votes needed (50) to refer the Amendment to the next Constitutional Convention.
- 2005-2006: Need approval by 50 out of 200 legislators at the 2005-06 Constitutional Convention to advance the Amendment to the ballot.
- November 2006: Ratification requires a majority of voters to vote in favor of the Amendment.

**[www.HealthCareForMass.org](http://www.HealthCareForMass.org)**

**Fax: (617) 868-1665**

Paid for by The Committee for Health Care for Massachusetts  
649 Massachusetts Avenue Suite 8 Cambridge MA 02019