

HEALTH CARE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN

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

August 23, 2005

Hand Delivered

The Honorable Robert E. Travaglini, Senate President
State House – Room 330
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Travaglini:

This letter is to ask you to vote YES on the Health Care Amendment at tomorrow's Constitutional Convention.

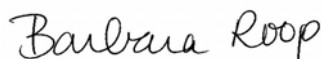
The Massachusetts economy is beginning to recover. New jobs are being created. Revenues are beginning to rise. The universal dissatisfaction with our health care system is, however, driven by forces that are largely independent of economic growth trends. Over the past ten years, health care costs have nearly doubled and they are expected to double again over the next ten years. The gap between wages and premium growth widened with the employer share of premiums growing 3 ½ times faster than wages. Fewer and fewer workers can afford to accept employer offers of health insurance, making affordability a problem that reaches well into the middle class today. Disparities in coverage, access and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity and income have widened. Each of these factors, taken separately, drives up costs, uninsurance and cost shifting. Together, they have driven premium hikes that exceed overall inflation and wage growth in every year since 1980 except one (1995) – with no end in sight.

- The affordability of health insurance coverage is still the #1 concern of likely voters.
- On January 1st, employers and individuals seeking coverage will face an average 10% premium increases according to Hewitt Associates.
- According to Families USA, over 1.5 million Massachusetts residents were without health insurance at some point in 2003-04 – more than a quarter of the non-elderly population – up over 7% from 2002-03.
- Over 71,000 registered voters put the Health Care Amendment before you because they want you to fix a broken system that doesn't serve them, doesn't serve our providers and doesn't serve our economy.

On July 14, 2004 you and your colleagues sent a clear message to your constituents. "We hear you." You voted 153 to 41 to send the Health Care Amendment for a second vote in this Constitutional Convention. Their calls have, if anything, grown in intensity since then.

Please vote YES on the Health Care Amendment. Be a catalyst for reforms that directly address your constituents' #1 worry, that will create jobs, increase corporate profits and generate new revenues.

Thank you.



Barbara Waters Roop, PhD, JD



John D. Goodson, MD

www.HealthCareForMass.org

Fax: (617) 868-1665

Paid for by The Committee for Health Care for Massachusetts
649 Massachusetts Avenue Suite 8 Cambridge MA 02139