

HEALTH CARE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Poll Shows Strong Support For Health Care Amendment

May 12, 2005 (Boston, MA) — A poll released today shows by an almost 4-1 margin that Massachusetts residents favor an amendment to the state constitution guaranteeing affordable, comprehensive health care coverage.

The results, 75.5%-20.7% in favor of the amendment, advance the Health Care for Massachusetts Campaign (HCMC), which is working to pass an amendment that would guarantee access to affordable, comprehensive and equitably financed health insurance coverage for all citizens. This would apply to medically necessary health and mental health care services including prescription drugs and devices but does not restrict the Legislature on how to provide access.

“These new poll numbers show that people want action on health care and they think our amendment is the best way to finally get something done,” said Barbara Roop, co-chair of the HCMC.

In all major categories of the poll, there was majority support for the amendment. Women favor the idea of an amendment more strongly than do men, younger respondents favor the amendment more strongly than do older respondents and Democrats and Independents favor the amendment more strongly than do Republicans.

“These high support levels for the constitutional amendment are no doubt fueled by the overall sentiment among respondents that all residents of Massachusetts should be able to get the same high quality coverage for medically necessary health and mental health care regardless of their ability to pay,” said State House News Pollster Gerry Chervinsky, a 20-year veteran of public opinion tracking in the Bay State. “Fully 82.6% of respondents agree with that premise, as opposed to only 13.9% who disagree.”

“The results demonstrate that people have had enough of the on-again, off-again health care discussion and it’s time to do something concrete,” said Dr. John Goodson, co-chair of the HCMC. “People have recognized that a health care system that leaves people out isn’t working - from both a moral and economic standpoint.”

The poll of 400 voters was conducted by KRC/Communications Research for The State House News Service from May 4-6, 2005, using standard random-digit-dialing techniques and carries an overall margin of error of +/-4.8%.

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