

HEALTH CARE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTH CARE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

As people of faith and conscience dedicated to social justice and equal opportunity, we join together to support the Health Care Constitutional Amendment which mandates affordable, comprehensive and equitably financed health and mental health care coverage for every Massachusetts resident.

Our failure as a Commonwealth to guarantee every resident, regardless of income, access to affordable, high quality care has unacceptable human and economic costs. Almost 750,000 have been without health care coverage for a year or more. More than twice that number either had incomplete coverage, or went without coverage for some portion of the last year. The costs are well documented: the uninsured and underinsured live sicker lives and die sooner than the insured and they have lower incomes and less opportunity to live up to their full potential in life. Sick children cannot learn well in school, ailing workers are not fully productive, and over time, the ripple effects reach us all.

Our Commonwealth has the resources to meet our moral obligations to each other and to ourselves. There are concrete proposals on the table which would ensure affordable, comprehensive health care for every Massachusetts resident. The benefits of expanding coverage will far exceed any initial costs. Universal coverage is the necessary precondition for achieving better quality of care and containing costs over time, and each of these plans can begin reducing they burden of uncontrolled health care costs on the health and financial security of Massachusetts families and the global competitiveness of our businesses.

The Health Care Constitutional Amendment provides clear standards to which these or other health care reform plans must adhere: affordable, comprehensive access to medically necessary health and mental health care services. Furthermore, these standards reflect a broad consensus among experts as well as among the people. The Amendment will give us the legal and political tools we need to ensure that these obligations are met, while leaving the specific decisions about how best to do so, to enlightened public discussion and the democratic process.

We, the undersigned, believe the Health Care Constitutional Amendment offers a solid foundation of clear principles on which the people and their elected officials can build a just and sustainable health care system.

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Paid for by The Committee for Health Care for Massachusetts
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