

# HEALTH CARE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Health Care Amendment Campaign Optimistic ConCon Will Deliver Final ‘Yes’ Vote**

**August 24, 2005 (BOSTON, MA)** — The **Health Care for Massachusetts Campaign (HCMC)**, the citizen-led initiative to amend the Constitution to ensure access to health care for every Massachusetts resident, said today’s postponement of the scheduled Constitutional Convention will not slow its momentum to gaining ballot access next year. The ConCon is now rescheduled to take place on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 1:00 pm.

First on the agenda for the next joint session, the Campaign seeks a second ‘yes’ vote (50 or more votes) by the Legislature, which will put the matter in the hands of the voters on the November 2006 ballot. The Legislature voted overwhelmingly in favor of the health care amendment with a vote of 153 to 41 at last year’s ConCon.

“We are half-way to getting this historic initiative in place,” said Dr. John Goodson, co-chair of the HCMC. “Massachusetts has always been a leader in our nation, taking steps — often unprecedented steps — to improve the lives of its citizens. This is yet another opportunity to do so.”

The Constitutional Amendment will require the Commonwealth to find a way to guarantee every Massachusetts resident access to affordable coverage for medically necessary health and mental health care services including prescription drugs and devices. However, it does not tell the Legislature *how* to achieve this goal. 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.

“In addition to nearly 80% of the Legislature, 75% of the people of Massachusetts have expressed their support of the Amendment in a recent survey,” said Barbara Roop, co-chair of the HCMC. “It is evident that everyone is ready to take this important step to ‘lock in’ reform in order to address the escalating health care crisis.”

With increasing momentum, several highly respected organizations and individuals have endorsed the Campaign since its launch. Among them are the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, the Greater Boston Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the American Medical Students Association. More information about the ‘Health Care for Massachusetts’ Campaign can be found at:

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

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Paid for by The Committee for Health Care for Massachusetts