

# HEALTH CARE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Statement of the Health Care For Massachusetts Campaign on Today's MassINC Forum With Michael Porter**

**February 17, 2005 (BOSTON, MA)** — The following is a statement from Barbara Roop and Dr. John Goodson, co-chairs of the **Health Care for Massachusetts Campaign (HCMC)**:

“Michael Porter’s diagnosis that we will need to shift from a model of competition based on cost-shifting to a model of competition based on value is hard to disagree with,” said Roop. “But, major stakeholders in our healthcare system have little incentive to change how they do business unless they all know that they will be held to the concessions they inevitably have to make.”

“A constitutional amendment is the only way to make this transformation happen; it can not be done by statute alone,” said Roop.

“Today’s important forum is a significant milestone in the recent increased momentum pushing us towards health care reform,” said Roop. “The Health Care for Massachusetts Campaign is coming off of a key victory for health care reform last summer when 153 legislators voted to support the health care access Amendment. Since then, several state leaders and organizations, including MassINC, have released specific proposals or provided research and support on the issue. We feel that all adds up to momentum for getting the 650,000 uninsured people in our state finally covered with an affordable and comprehensive plan.”

“We view our campaign as providing the umbrella under which other health care activity and proposals can grow and move forward,” said Dr. Goodson. “The amendment is key to providing the foundation for bringing stakeholders to the table and giving them the confidence to transform the system,” he added.

The Constitutional Amendment requires 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. The Amendment does not, however, tell the Legislature *how* to achieve this goal. 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 advocacy groups like Health Care for All and MASS-CARE. 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 text of the Amendment reads:

*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 state wide 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.*

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

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Paid for by The Committee for Health Care for Massachusetts