

MassACT!

Good For You. Good For Massachusetts.

We Did It!

In the fall of 2005, 2000 volunteers from across the Commonwealth collected over 112,000 signatures in support of our comprehensive health reform proposal, the Massachusetts Quality Affordable Health Care Act. The overwhelming success of our signature drive significantly impacted the passage of comprehensive health care legislation in April 2006. The new health care law will:

- Expand access to quality coverage for children, families and individuals up to 300% of poverty (Family of 4/ \$60,000).
- Restore MassHealth dental and eyeglass benefits to over 600,000 people.
- Help small businesses and the self-employed buy quality affordable health insurance.
- Establish employer responsibility for providing health insurance to their workers.

Our work continues!

This new law is a significant victory for expanding access to quality affordable health care. **But our work is not done!** We must continue to work to ensure that the new law is implemented fairly and that access to quality affordable health insurance is a reality for all residents of the Commonwealth. Therefore, MassACT will collect 20,000 signatures between May 17th and June 19th to ensure that this recent health care legislation is:

- Affordable for all residents
- Implemented fairly
- Fully funded

For more information about the campaign and to learn how to become a volunteer, please contact Lisa Vinikoor at (617) 275-2807 or vinikoor@massact.org or visit our website at www.massact.org.



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Key Components of the Ballot Initiative: Massachusetts Quality Affordable Health Care Act:

The ballot proposal:

- **Covers our children and most vulnerable residents** - expanding the affordable MassHealth program.
- **Increases quality affordable coverage** - providing sliding-scale assistance to moderate-income families struggling to afford health care costs.
- **Helps small businesses provide coverage** - expanding the Insurance Partnership program and establishing a reinsurance program to reduce premiums.
- **Makes our health system fair** - funding expanded coverage through an affordable assessment on firms that refuse to provide coverage to their workers.
- **Lowers health costs and improves health-** increasing the cigarette tax by 60 cents to reduce smoking and to fund affordable coverage.
- **Reduces premiums** - ending the insurance surcharge now tacked onto premiums to pay for uninsured patients who get care in emergency rooms and other sites.

MassACT Supporters and Health Reform Leaders:

- Greater Boston Interfaith Organization
- Families USA
- Health Care for All
- Massachusetts Business Leaders for Quality Affordable Health Care
- 1199 Service Employees International Union United Health Care Workers East
- Neighbor to Neighbor
- Service Employees International Union Local 615
- United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1445
- Massachusetts Building Trades Council
- Coalition for Social Justice

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