

Health Care For All 2023-2024 Legislative Priorities

Make Health Care More Affordable:

- **Expand Access to More Affordable Coverage (HD.3361/SD.1950)**
 - This bill creates a pilot program to expand eligibility for the ConnectorCare program to more MA residents, increasing access to affordable health care coverage with lower costs.
- **Lower costs for Prescription Drugs (HD.2503/SD.2232 & HD.2478)**
 - These bills address high and rising prescription drug costs and reduce co-pays for people with certain chronic conditions.
- **Rein in Out-of-Pocket Costs And Premiums (HD.3405/SD.1954 & HD.2484 /SD.1951)**
 - These bills help families struggling with high-cost, employer-sponsored health insurance by assisting with out-of-pocket costs and by strengthening the Division of Insurance review process to rein in rising premiums.
- **Ease the Burden of Medical Debt (HD.3700/SD.2044)**
 - This bill would prohibit consumer reporting agencies from including medical debt on consumer reports, ensuring that people carrying medical debt do not face additional burdens.
- **Address High-Cost Hospitals and HPC System Accountability (HD.2748 /SD.1953)**
 - This bill improves the Health Policy Commission’s ability to hold the state’s highest cost hospitals and health systems accountable for exceeding the cost growth benchmark.

Make Health Care More Accessible:

- **Cover All Kids (HD.2153/SD.778)**
 - This bill expands comprehensive MassHealth coverage to children and young adults whose only eligibility barrier is immigration status.
- **Expand Access to Maternal Health through Home Visiting (HD.4006/SD.1160)**
 - This bill makes permanent and expands statewide a universal postpartum home visiting program under the Department of Public Health, as well as requires both MassHealth and private insurance to cover services provided by this program.
- **Enhance Access to Dental Providers and Strengthen Consumer Protections (HD.2114/SD.1995 & HD.2626/SD.1885)**
 - These bills provide incentive payment to encourage dental providers in high-need areas to treat MassHealth members and enhance consumer cost protections under the new dental Medical Loss Ratio.
- **Reduce barriers to care by simplifying prior authorization (HD.3720/SD.2231)**
 - This bill simplifies the prior authorization process to provide timely, safe and affordable access to evidence-based care.
- **Ensure continued access to preventive services without cost-sharing (HD.2499/SD.1471)**
 - This bill requires health insurance plans regulated by the state to offer preventive services – such as cancer screenings, contraception and vaccines – without cost sharing to enrollees, which is currently a requirement under the Affordable Care Act being challenged in the federal courts.
- **Prevent gaps in coverage for children enrolled in MassHealth (HD.1498)**
 - This bill requires that MassHealth implement at least 12 months of continuous eligibility for children enrolled in the program to prevent disruptions in coverage and promote continuity of care.