



## ***Health Care For All's 2025-2026 Legislative Priorities***

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### ***Key Priorities***

Across Massachusetts, [40%](#) of residents struggle to afford care, and [1 in 8](#) are carrying medical debt. At the same time [1 in 4](#) residents struggle to access care, reporting they were unable to get an appointment with a doctor's office when they needed it. People of color and low-income residents are the [most likely](#) to forgo primary care.

These are more than just statistics. Health Care For All (HCFA) hears from callers on our HelpLine and community members every day about the challenges they face affording and accessing the equitable care they need. People describe the burden of carrying medical debt and the struggle of being unable to get their child an appointment with their primary care doctor.

That is why HCFA is advocating for reforms on three key issues to make care more equitable, accessible and affordable. These proposals would bring needed relief to individuals and families across the Commonwealth.

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#### **Alleviate Medical Debt (H.419/S.214, H.1350/S.842 & H.1420/S.852)**

*Rep. Lawn, Rep. Barber, Rep. Owens, and Rep. Worrell & Sen. Cronin, Sen. Comerford, and Sen. DiDomenico*

- These bills ensure that people who already carry medical debt are protected from future financial harm and prevent people from accumulating medical debt by making hospital financial assistance policies more uniform and accessible while also restoring Health Safety Net coverage.
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#### **Expand Access to Primary Care (H.2537/S.867)**

*Rep. Schwartz & Sen. Friedman*

- These bills increase investment in primary care by setting a statewide spending target, changing the way we pay for primary care, lowering costs for patients, establishing pay equity for community health centers, and training more doctors through a Medicaid residency program.
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#### **Lower Health Care Costs (H.1092 & H.1361/S.868)**

*Rep. Barber and Rep. Duffy & Sen. Friedman*

- These bills address rising health care costs by giving the Health Policy Commission (HPC) new authority to tackle high-cost prescription drugs, increasing flexibility and accountability in the state's benchmark process to address hospital and health system costs, and giving the Division of Insurance new tools to push back on premium increases.

## *Additional Priorities*

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### **Reduce Barriers to Care by Simplifying Prior Authorization (H.1136/S.1403)**

*Rep. Decker & Sen. Friedman*

- This bill simplifies the health insurance prior authorization process to provide timely, safe and affordable access to evidence-based care.
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### **Cover All Kids (H.1403/S.855)**

*Rep. Rogers & Sen. DiDomenico*

- This bill removes immigration status as a barrier to full MassHealth coverage for children and youth under age 21 who live in Massachusetts.
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### **Strengthen Access to Community Health Workers (H.359/S.251)**

*Rep. Decker & Sen. Kennedy*

- This bill requires MassHealth, the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) and private insurance carriers to cover services provided by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and establishes a taskforce to study and make recommendations to strengthen the CHW workforce.
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### **Support Behavioral Health Prevention for Children (H.1228/S.802)**

*Rep. Kushmerek & Sen. O'Connor*

- This bill requires the GIC and private insurance carriers to cover short-term behavioral health services for children under the age of 21 without requiring a diagnosis, in alignment with MassHealth's policy.
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### **Enhance Access to Dental Providers (H.1401/S.888)**

*Rep. Phillips & Sen. Mark*

- This bill establishes a pilot program in 10 high-need cities and towns to provide incentive payments to dental providers if they treat an additional 10 MassHealth members.
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### **Enshrine Federal Health Care Protections in State Law (H.2477/S.1544)**

*Rep. Lawn & Sen. Friedman*

- This bill extends the right to interpreter services to all health care facilities, in line with federal regulations, as a starting point to address looming changes in federal policy by putting protections into state statute.