



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS

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S-2437 AN ACT TO PROMOTE COST CONTAINMENT, TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE PROVISION OF QUALITY HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL BUSINESS

MassAHU continues to be engaged, advocating on behalf of consumers and very concerned with the cost drivers behind health care, the need for greater transparency and financial relief to individuals and the small business owners. Although, there are many provisions in S-2437 that our association supports, as set forth in its position statement, we have significant concerns over several SECTIONS of the bill that we would like to see addressed.

MassAHU SUPPORTS the following provisions:

- Supports language that requires DOI to utilize the definition of the Medical Loss Ratios (MLR) as developed by the National Association of Health Commissioners (NAIC).
- Connector shall not utilize any of the data received from the Department for any solicitations or advertising. (Amendment 39 adopted)
- Connector Oversight Commission – must convene meeting no later than September 1, 2010 and report findings and recommendations to the Joint Committee on Public Health and the Joint Committee on Health Care Finance, at least annually. (Amendment 36 adopted).
- Minimum Creditable Coverage – notice of changes to MCC must begin 90 days prior to when changes become effective. (Amendment 37 adopted)

MassAHU SUPPORTS the inclusion of the following provisions:

- Connector Board – add a member in good standing of MassAHU to the Connector Board. (H-975)
- Make Prescription Drug Coverage optional under MCC. (Amendment 13 not adopted)
- Prohibit Connector from advertising its services as a broker of insurance through Business Express. (Amendment 20 not adopted)
- Prohibit Connector from actively soliciting potential participants in their health plans if such participants already have coverage from private companies. (Amendment 39 not adopted)

MassAHU OPPOSES Sections 27, 37, and 43 of S-2437:

- Sections 27, 37, and 43 of S-2437 should be stricken. These SECTIONS give the Connector exclusivity in selling and marketing of non group health plans.
- Association Health Plans (AHP's) – Amendment 43 as redrafted and adopted in S-2437. MassAHU opposes association health plans, but supports the Affordable Health Plan, as contained in H-4452 (Rep. H. Stanley) that was reported favorably to House, Ways & Means.