



HEALTH CARE REFORM II

Bending the Cost Curve

The Senate proposes a comprehensive strategy to contain the growth in health care costs and improve access to quality care.

Improve Access to Primary Care Services

- Establish a new Center for Primary Care Recruitment and Placement to coordinate statewide primary care workforce activities.
- Expand Enrollment at UMass Medical School for students committed to primary care specialties.
- Authorize an Enhanced Learning Contract for UMass medical students who commit to providing primary care in the Commonwealth.
- Expand the role of Nurse Practitioners as primary care providers.

Enhance Transparency of Health Care Costs and Quality

- Require annual public hearings with health care providers to investigate health care cost drivers and make cost-reduction recommendations.
- Require public review of any insurance company that submits premium increases above 7 percent.
- Ban pharmaceutical representatives from giving gifts of any value to physicians.
- Track the occurrence of Never-Events.

Encourage Adoption of Health Information Technology

- Require statewide adoption of electronic health records by the year 2015 to improve patient safety and lower costs.
- Set a deadline of 2012 for statewide adoption of Computerized Physician Order Entry systems (CPOE).
- Require physician competency in health information technology for medical board registration.

Promote the Efficient Use of Health Care Resources

- Strengthen the Determination of Need Process to constrain overall health care costs by eliminating duplication of expensive technologies.
- Set a statewide standard for uniform billing and coding among health care providers and insurance companies to reduce administrative costs.
- Authorize a MassHealth “Medical Home” Demonstration project to promote coordinated, comprehensive care.