



City of Cambridge

48.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 12, 1996

COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

- WHEREAS: In recent weeks, hospitals in Cambridge have started charging patients from \$20-\$30 per week for television service; and
- WHEREAS: Prior to this time, these hospitals did not charge patients for television service and allowed patients to use their own televisions for free over-the-air reception; and
- WHEREAS: Many patients at Cambridge hospitals are chronically and/or terminally ill and rely on television as a primary source of information and entertainment and as their connection to the outside world; and
- WHEREAS: Charging \$20 or more per week for television service is prohibitively expensive for many of said chronically and/or terminally ill patients; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to convey to the management, Board of Director and Officers of all Cambridge hospitals, the concern of the Cambridge City Council and the new television charges and policies are unfair and injurious to its patients and that they should consider additional alternatives for patient access to television services; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager, in consultation with the City Solicitor and the Consumer Council, determine whether the City Council may by ordinance establish a Patient's Access Law whereby a hospital may not interfere with the patient's right to connect and use the patient's own television equipment for free broadcast reception or, in the case of long-term patients, to subscribe to less expensive cable television service.

In City Council February 12, 1996
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.
A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Consent Order #48

1 CM-84

Councillors Born and Sullivan re:
Determine whether the City Council
may be ordinance establish a Patient's
Access Law.

In City Council February 12, 1996

Order Adopted