



# City of Cambridge

ORIGINAL ORDER

O-22.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 19, 2001

VICE MAYOR MAHER

WHEREAS: On Thursday, April 5, 2001 at 1:00 p.m., senior citizens will rally at the State House in Nurses Hall to support increased funding for state programs to enable seniors to stay out of nursing homes and live at home; and

WHEREAS: The rally is sponsored by Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action in support of the "Equal Choice" bills, H.1589 and S.676; and

WHEREAS: Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action are calling for:

- Investing more money in home care;
- Ending the bias towards institutional care;
- Balancing funding for community care;
- Providing a living wage for home care workers; and
- Passing the "Equal Choice" bills; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging all Cantabrigians to be cognizant of the Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action rally in support of more funding to enable seniors to choose between home care and nursing homes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record supporting the "Equal Choice" bills, H.1589 and S.676, and a living wage for home care workers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council be and hereby is requested to send a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge legislative delegation.



# City of Cambridge

AMENDED ORDER  
O-22.  
IN CITY COUNCIL

March 19, 2001

VICE MAYOR MAHER  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR DECKER  
MAYOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: On Thursday, April 5, 2001 at 1:00 p.m., senior citizens will rally at the State House in Nurses Hall to support increased funding for state programs to enable seniors to stay out of nursing homes and live at home; and

WHEREAS: The rally is sponsored by Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action in support of the "Equal Choice" bills, H.1589 and S.676; and

WHEREAS: Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action are calling for:

- Investing more money in home care;
- Ending the bias towards institutional care;
- Balancing funding for community care;
- Providing a living wage for home care workers; and
- Passing the "Equal Choice" bills; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging all Cantabrigians to be cognizant of the Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action rally in support of more funding to enable seniors to choose between home care and nursing homes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record supporting the "Equal Choice" bills, H.1589 and S.676, and a living wage for home care workers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council be and hereby is requested to send a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge legislative delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to distribute notice of this rally at the Senior Centers and scroll it on the municipal cable channel.

In City Council March 19, 2001.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

*D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

DM

~~0-72~~  
0-72

W/A On Thursday, April 5, 2001 at 1 p.m., senior citizens will ~~gather~~ rally at the State House in Nurses Hall to support legislation that <sup>to</sup> would invest an equal amount of state funds in programs that allow seniors to be cared for at home ~~the~~ equal to the amount spent on nursing home care; and

~~W/A~~ increased funding for state programs to enable ~~allow~~ seniors to stay out of nursing homes and live at home; and

W/A The rally is sponsored by Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action in support of the "Equal Choice" bills, ~~House~~ H. 1589 and S. 676; and

W/A Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action are calling for  
The "Equal Choice" bills, filed by Representative Mike Festa and Senator Brian Joyce, calls for

- investing more money in home care
- ending the bias towards institutional care
- balancing funding for community care, and
- providing a living wage for home care workers, ~~and~~
- passing the "Equal Choice" bills; and

therefore be it ~~resolved~~

R: That the CC go on record urging all Cambridgeans to be organizers of the Mas/home Care and Mass Senior Action rally in support of more funding to enable seniors to choose between home care and nursing homes; and be it further

R: That the CC go on record supporting the "Equal Choice" bills, H. 1589 and S. 676, and ~~intend~~ a living wage for home care workers; and be it further

R: That the CC be + hb is requested to send a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge legislative delegation

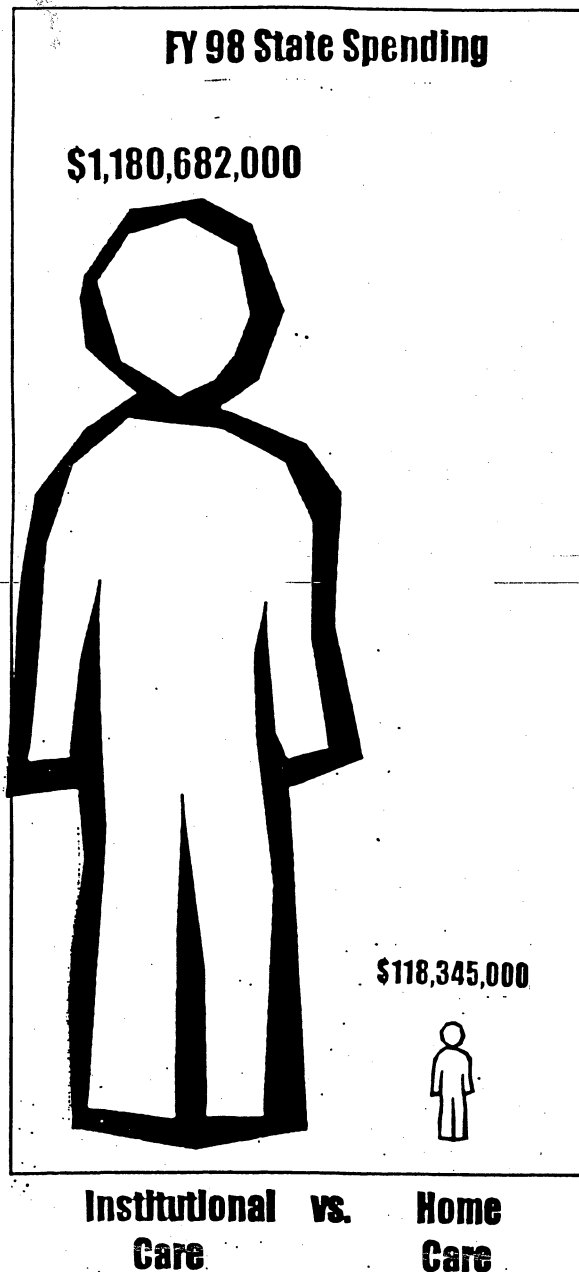
# Save House Rally, Thurs. April 5<sup>th</sup> *Maher*

**Sponsored by Mass Home Care & Mass Senior Action** *Resolution supporting this issue announcing rally -*

**1:00 PM Nurses Hall**

## Seniors Want An EQUAL CHOICE!

- Invest more money in home care
- end the bias towards institutional care
- balance funding for community care
- give seniors an equal chance to stay at home
- pass the "Equal Choice" bills (H. 1589, S. 676)
- provide a living wage for home care workers



Ask any senior: Would you rather be cared for at home—or in an institution? The answer is obvious. Yet today, more Massachusetts seniors are in nursing homes than in home care. The Commonwealth spends 10 times more on institutional care than on community care. In the last decade, nearly 8,000 more institutional beds were created, but home care cases fell by 6,000 below 1988 levels. This is the opposite of what seniors—and their families—want!

It's time to invest more in the community. It's time to put care at home on equal footing with institutional care. It's time to give seniors an "equal choice" of where they get care.

**FOR INFORMATION OR EVENT DETAILS, CALL MASS HOME CARE AT 781-272-7177 X 281,  
OR MASS SENIOR ACTION AT 617-350-6722.**

2001 MAR 15 4 11:55  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

# **FY 2002 Budget**

## **Short List of Elderly Budget Priorities**



## **Equal Choice for Elders**

# **FY 2002 Budget Request for home care**

## **Summary (more details inside)**

### **1. 4000-0600: Home & Community Based Waiver: \$58 million**

This item keeps roughly 4,800 elders out of nursing homes and in the community. Governor Cellucci has asked for \$100 Million more for Medicaid Long Term Care in this account, but for the sixth straight year, no additional funds for community based care. Elders want an "equal choice" to live at home. That means shifting care into the community. The Commonwealth has promised to spend up to 100% of the cost of nursing home care on these elders, but only spends around 10% of that amount on home care. Without more funding, the average elder in the community care waiver will get only \$7.38 a day in services.

---

### **2. 9110-1630: Home Care Purchased Services: \$121.5 Million**

This account pays for homemakers, personal care, meals on wheels, and other services for disabled elders. The Governor's request for home care services is only slightly higher than it was 14 years ago. An elder today gets only \$7.38 a day in home care help. More people get nursing home care today than home care. We serve 6,000 fewer elders per month than in 1988. It's time to make the investment at home—where elders want to be cared for. This item includes a \$15 million salary reserve for homemakers, who were left out of the nursing home wage hike from FY 2001. We are in the midst of the worse homemaker shortage in the 27 year history of the home care program. Several thousand elders are not getting home care services because of the shortage of homemakers.

---

### **3. 9110-1633: ASAP Care Management & Support: \$40.27 Million**

39,000 elders each month are care managed under this item. Rising caseloads, staff turnover of 50% and higher, low entry wages—all combine to create pressure on this account. Entry salaries (at \$21,000) are some of the lowest in the state. The Governor's request for FY 2002 in this account is actually lower than the FY 88 appropriation for this item. At the level of \$40.27 Million, Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs) would still only receive \$3.50 a day to work with a home care client.

---

### **4. 9110-1636: Protective Services: \$13.61 Million**

This program works exclusively with elders who are being abused by others, or who are a threat to themselves. The Governor's request level-funds this protective services/abuse investigation program. Elder Abuse caseloads are rising by 8%. Without further funds, existing workers will have to absorb more cases, threatening the quality of care each elder receives. Funding increases in this account would also go to end the waiting list for Money Management, as well as the abuse hotline and guardianship services.



**1. Community Based Waiver (4000-0600). Give elders an “equal choice”. Request: \$58 Million**

This item keeps elders out of nursing homes. Only people who are eligible for institutional care are eligible for this “2176 waiver” program. Elders want an “equal choice” of living at home, or living in an institution. Yet for the past six years, as the number of nursing home beds has risen, the funding for the waiver has been frozen at \$8.6 million. The Commonwealth signed an agreement with the federal government that home care spending would not exceed 100%

of what it costs for nursing home care. But the state is actually spending closer to 10% for home care—far below “budget neutrality”. We’re spending \$7.38 a day for home care, vs. \$70 a day for nursing home care. This is no “equal choice”. Nine out of ten Medicaid long term care dollars go to institutions. Governor Cellucci says he wants to shift care into community settings. Putting more money into the community waiver is the way to do that. Roughly 4,800 elders are being kept out of nursing homes today. The US Supreme court’s Olmstead ruling in 1999 says we should avoid unnecessary institutionalization. State taxpayers save more than \$50 million from this program. An “Equal Choice” bill filed by Rep. Mike Festa and Senator Brian Joyce would set the spending floor for home care at 50% of the nursing home level. We are seeking to increase this account from “not less than \$8.6 million” to “not less than **\$58 million.**” Half of the increase (\$25 M) would be paid for by the federal government.



## **2. Home Care Services (9110-1630). Where have all the workers gone? Request: \$121.5 Million.**

This account buys homemaker and personal care services, meals and other help for roughly 36,500 elders a month. Fourteen years ago, there were more people getting home care services than there are today. More than 8,000 fewer people get home care today than in 1987. Governor Cellucci has asked for \$93.9 million in this account, which compares to \$91 million the program had in 1988. When an elder gets into home care, they get an average of \$7.38 a day in

services. This is not even enough to buy 3 hours of care a week. The Governor's level of funding will not be enough to pay for the increase in homemaker rates in FY 2001 of more than 7%, and will rise even more next year, because the severe worker shortage is driving rates higher as workers grow scarcer. Several thousand elders today are approved for home care, but either are not getting any services, or are getting only partial care because we can't find workers to go into their homes. We have asked for a funding level of **\$121.5 million**, to pay for rising caseloads, and to increase the daily rate to \$8.11—still far below what is needed. In addition, we are seeking a special \$15 million salary reserve for the several thousand home care workers who were left out of the nursing home workers wage reserve in the FY 2001 budget. Home care workers received nothing from that reserve.



### 3. Home Care Care Management (9110-1633). Lower than 14 years ago. Request: \$40.27 Million

This account pays for the workers who assess, enroll and manage the care of all home care clients. It also pays for operations costs of the Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs). This account is joined at the hip to the 1630 home care services account. The two items combined make the home care program work. In FY 88, the House asked for \$37.5 million for this account. Fourteen years later, the Governor is asking for \$36.5

million. The total number of elders being care managed in this account is expected to rise from 36,500 elders this year to 37,900 in FY 2002. To serve this population **\$40.27 million** is required, which is just 7% higher than our funding level from 14 years ago. At this level of funding, ASAPs would still only receive \$3.50 a day to work with home care clients. Salaries in this field have lagged behind even other human services positions, and a starting care manager may be asked to carry a caseload of 100 clients for a starting salary of \$21,000 a year. Some agencies have reported worker turnover exceeding 50%. A recent report from BDO Seidman says that "ASAPs as a whole are not very profitable. And in two of the years during the last decade, they lost money as a group."



#### **4. Elder Abuse Services (9110-1636). A Headline Waiting to Happen Request: \$13.61 Million**

This account funds the protective services/elder abuse program, which does all the investigation and casework on elder abuse cases. Each one of these cases is very volatile, and if not handled correctly, can become a front page story. The Governor has level-funded this account for FY 2002, yet caseloads are growing by 8%. This means no new monies for protective workers, for the elders at risk program (self-neglect cases) for the Money Management program, etc. If no additional funds are provided, caseloads will rise dramatically above state standards, jeopardizing the time and attention put into each case. **\$13.61 million** is needed in this account to cover the statewide cost of additional case staff in the protective program (8.5 new workers) and in the Elder At Risk program (16 new workers). The request would also allow each of the 25 Money Management programs in the state to have one full time manager to help alleviate the waiting list in 23 programs. The elder abuse hotline and the guardianship program would also receive support.

**For further background contact Mass Home Care: 781-272-7177 x. 281**



# City of Cambridge

O-22.

## IN CITY COUNCIL

March 19, 2001

### VICE MAYOR MAHER

WHEREAS: On Thursday, April 5, 2001 at 1:00 p.m., senior citizens will rally at the State House in Nurses Hall to support increased funding for state programs to enable seniors to stay out of nursing homes and live at home; and

WHEREAS: The rally is sponsored by Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action in support of the "Equal Choice" bills, H.1589 and S.676; and

WHEREAS: Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action are calling for:

- Investing more money in home care;
- Ending the bias towards institutional care;
- Balancing funding for community care;
- Providing a living wage for home care workers; and
- Passing the "Equal Choice" bills; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging all Cantabrigians to be cognizant of the Mass Home Care and Mass Senior Action rally in support of more funding to enable seniors to choose between home care and nursing homes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record supporting the "Equal Choice" bills, H.1589 and S.676, and a living wage for home care workers; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council be and hereby is requested to send a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge legislative delegation.

436 R

**Order #22**

Mass Home Care and Mass Senior  
Action rally which will take place  
on Thursday, April 5, 2001 at 1:00  
p.m. at the State House in Nurses  
Hall in support of "Equal Choice"  
bills H.1589 and S.676

**Vice Mayor Maher**

**In City Council March 19, 2001**

**ORDER ADOPTED**  
*as amended*