

To the Honorable, the Cambridge City Council
Re: Universal Health Care Ballot Question
From David Hoicka
June 18, 1998

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filed, politicians make speeches, yet almost a million Massachusetts residents remain without health care. *Hoicka and Lopez are working to change the law, and end that unfairness.*

It is unconscionable that, despite record state and federal budget surpluses, and a stock market at its highest ever, funds for basic human needs are compromised as Republicans seek profits and tax cuts for the well-to-do, on the backs of those less fortunate.

Further, even for those lucky enough to get health insurance, insurance companies and HMOs regularly deny and restrict medical treatment to maximize corporate profits. Thus, a *Health Care Bill of Rights* is essential to protect those who already have health care.

David Hoicka grew up in Canada, where access to health care is a natural part of an enlightened society. Major industrialized countries around the world provide more affordable and comprehensive health care for their citizens, than we do in Massachusetts. Universal health care works – so why not here in Massachusetts?

David Hoicka and Ralph Lopez believe it is a tragedy that so many working families are denied regular affordable health care in our affluent society, and encourage everyone to vote YES on the Universal Health Care Referendum.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized flourish at the end.

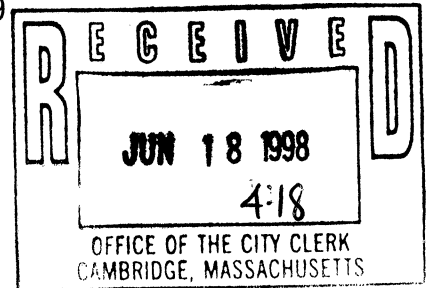
David Hoicka,
547-4000

David Hoicka
10 Lopez Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

June 18, 1998

To the Honorable, the Cambridge City Council

Ballot Referendum
for Universal Affordable Health Care
and Health Care Bill of Rights



I am writing to notify the Cambridge City Council that Ralph Lopez and I have now collected enough signatures to place our Hoicka/Lopez Ballot Referendum for Universal Affordable Health Care on the Ballot, and the text has been approved by the Attorney General's office.

As a step to break the health care deadlock, David Hoicka and Ralph Lopez have sponsored a ballot referendum to instruct the legislature to pass "*universal, affordable, comprehensive health insurance*" and a "*health care bill of rights for all residents of Massachusetts*".

Text of Ballot Question:

"Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation

- a) providing for universal, affordable, comprehensive health insurance for all residents of Massachusetts; and*
- b) providing for a health care bill of rights for all residents of Massachusetts."*

The Hoicka/Lopez Health Care Petition appears to be the only ballot initiative on Universal Health Care and a Health Care Bill of Rights in Massachusetts this year.

Through this Ballot Initiative, more than 10,000 Cambridge residents can directly vote to show the State House that health care is important. If a survey of 200 or 300 people is statistically significant, a vote showing the opinion of 10,000 Cambridge Voters, should carry great weight throughout the state and have national influence.

In the midst of our affluent society, more than 700,000 people in Massachusetts are unable to obtain health insurance – many in Cambridge.

Drug companies reap enormous profits out of taxpayer financed research, the medical-industrial complex continues to expand – yet serious health care reform remains unaddressed by the Massachusetts Legislature. Various bills get

Consent Communication #21

4695

A communication was received from david Hoicka, transmitting a letter regarding placing on the Ballot a referendum question for Universal Affordable Health Care and Health Care Bill of Rights.

In City Council June 22, 1998

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