

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Community Health Clerkship
Health Advocacy

HEALTH POLICY & POLITICS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Advocacy Organizations	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization)
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	HCFA (Health Care For All), AIM, MassCare: For Single Payer
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	Small Business Service Bureau (SBSB)
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	N/A (Mass. Only)
Advocacy Issue	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	Increasing access to the state health care system. -Chapter 58: and the creation of the Commonwealth Connector -Individual Mandate and Employer Responsibility -Expansion of MassHealth and creation of CommCare: a subsidized Health Insurance program
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	Renewal of the federal CMS 1115 Waiver and sustainability of Ch. 58
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	Health Care for All, ACT Coalition, the state (MassHealth)
Who is being lobbied?	The Federal Government (CMS) and State Legislature too (for more \$)
Whom will this issue affect?	Everyone in the state
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	In the short run yes. Access has increased. Not in the long run without (more \$\$ or decreasing/controlling rising healthcare costs)
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	They need to get more money (1115 Waiver) or lower the cost of HC
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	More uninsured and a failing health care system
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	Single payer system or sweeping tax increases (increasing government spending and involvement in an incremental fashion to reform HC)
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Students: join AMSA, join HCFA, or lobby with your local and state lawmakers. Also join other professional organizations (AMA, etc) and advocate change.