

By Mr. Bachrach, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 454) of George Bachrach, Argeo Paul Cellucci, John E. McDonough and other members of the House of Representatives for legislation relative to alleviating shortages of physicians participating in the Medicaid program in certain geographic areas. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

AN ACT TO RESOLVE SHORTAGES OF MEDICAID PARTICIPATING PHYSICIANS IN CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.

1 *Whereas*, The executive branch of human services entered into
2 an agreement with the Massachusetts Medical Society to
3 undertake efforts to achieve 85 percent physician participation in
4 the Medicaid program; and

5 *Whereas*, It is recognized that certain geographic areas in the
6 Commonwealth will not reach the 85 percent physician enrollment
7 goal even if the statewide goal is achieved;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Department of Public Welfare shall survey
2 and identify the geographic areas in the Commonwealth where
3 the 85 percent physician enrollment goal in Medicaid is not
4 achieved.

1 SECTION 2. The Department of Public Health shall (a)
2 analyze the availability of physician services to recipients in the
3 shortage areas to determine whether a substantial threat exists to
4 the health status of recipients who experience inadequate access
5 to necessary medical services; (b) identify alternative sources of
6 primary care services, including community health centers, health
7 maintenance organizations, residency training programs, and
8 physician extender programs; (c) take such actions as are indicated
9 by the nature and severity of the threat to the health and well-

10 being of recipients in such shortage areas, to arrange for the
11 appropriate engagement of such alternative sources of primary
12 care services for those recipients. Such actions shall be considered
13 by the Department of Public Health in the following order:

14 1. Arrange for, or contract with, alternative providers for the
15 provision or expansion of their services in those areas;

16 2. Provide grants, loans, and such other assistance as necessary
17 for alternative care providers to establish services in those areas;

18 3. Hire the necessary medical personnel and assign them to
19 work in the shortage areas.

1 SECTION 3. The Department of Public Welfare shall arrange
2 to reimburse such alternative sources of primary care services and
3 shall request federal Medicaid matching funds for such
4 expenditures.