

By Mr. Tarr of Gloucester, petition of Bruce E. Tarr and Thomas G. Palumbo for legislation to regulate benefits provided by health maintenance organizations. Insurance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING INSURANCE BENEFITS.

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. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting lines 46
3 through 49 and inserting in place thereof the following: — Health
4 Services, at least reasonably comprehensive physician services on
5 a nondiscriminatory basis, inpatient and outpatient services,
6 emergency health services and podiatric services.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following sections: —

4 Section 4C. Every registered chiropractor shall have the right,
5 on complying with such rules and regulations the organization
6 may make, to enter into written agreement with a health
7 maintenance organization, doing business in the city or town
8 where the said chiropractor resides or has a usual place of
9 business, to perform chiropractic services. No restrictions shall be
10 placed by any such health maintenance organization upon its
11 participating chiropractors as to methods of diagnosis or
12 treatment. No officer, agent or employee of a health maintenance
13 organization shall influence or attempt to influence a subscriber
14 or a covered dependent in the choice of a participating
15 chiropractor. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
16 any health maintenance organization from entering into written
17 agreements with its subscribers and with participating chiroprac-

18 tors to furnish chiropractic services to subscribers and covered
19 dependents or from including chiropractic services in its health
20 services plan nor shall any health maintenance organization
21 discriminate in any way against participating chiropractors in the
22 furnishing of chiropractic services to its subscribers and covered
23 dependents.

24 Section 4D. Upon the request of a subscriber or covered
25 dependent for chiropractic services, the health maintenance
26 organization shall refer the subscriber or covered dependent to
27 a participating doctor of chiropractic in the geographical area
28 nearest to the subscriber's or covered dependent's residence.