

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition of Peter J. Koutoujian and others for legislation to ensure low-income children's access to basic health care. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Peter J. Koutoujian  
John W. Scibak

Joyce A. Spiliotis

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ENSURE LOW-INCOME CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO BASIC HEALTH CARE.

*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 last sentence of section 9 of chapter 118E of  
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the word  
3 "levels." and inserting in place thereof the words:— levels, pro-  
4 vided, that no premiums shall be imposed on households with  
5 children whose financial eligibility as determined by the division  
6 is below 150 per cent of the federal poverty level.

1 SECTION 2. Section 10F of chapter 118E of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in  
3 place thereof the following subsection:—

4 (d) The cost of the program shall be funded in part by pre-  
5 miums contributed by enrollees according to the following eligi-  
6 bility categories: enrollees in households ineligible for medical  
7 benefits pursuant to this chapter earning less than 200 per cent of  
8 the federal poverty level shall not be responsible for contributing  
9 to program premium costs; enrollees in households earning  
10 between 200 per cent and 400 per cent of the federal poverty  
11 level, inclusive, shall contribute not less than 20 per cent and not  
12 more than 30 per cent of the monthly premium cost according to a

13 sliding scale established by the division; provided, that additional  
14 contributions shall not be required for any enrollee after the third  
15 enrollee in such a household; and enrollees in households earning  
16 more than 400 per cent of the federal poverty level shall pay no  
17 more than the full premium cost of said program. Household earn-  
18 ings may be defined on the basis of gross earnings, or on an  
19 adjusted basis according to criteria deemed appropriate by the  
20 division. The division shall base premium costs on an actuarially  
21 sound methodology. Premiums contributed by enrollees shall be  
22 deposited in the Children's and Seniors' Health Care Assistance  
23 Fund, established by section 2FF of chapter 29 and may be used  
24 for the program subject to appropriation.