

SENATE No. 455

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen J. Buoniconti

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act increasing access to affordable health insurance coverage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Stephen J. Buoniconti

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT INCREASING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.

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. Section 3 of said chapter 176M, as recently amended by Chapter 58 of the Acts of
2 2006, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following
3 subsection:—

4 (d) As of July 1, 2009, a carrier shall no longer offer, sell, or deliver a health plan to any person
5 to whom it does not have such an obligation pursuant to an individual policy, contract or agreement with
6 an employer or through a trust or association; provided, however, that a closed guaranteed issue plan or a
7 closed health plan shall be subject to all the other requirements of this chapter. A carrier shall be
8 obligated to renew a closed guarantee issue health plan and a closed plan. A carrier may discontinue a
9 closed guarantee issue health plan or a closed plan when the number of subscribers in a closed guaranteed
10 issue plan or a closed plan is the greater of 25 per cent of the plan's subscriber total as of December 31,
11 2004 or 1,000 subscribers.

12 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.