

*Yes - I want to help make Cape Care a reality!*

I've enclosed a donation of:

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Tax-deductible donations payable to UHCEF / Cape Care Coalition may be sent to:  
Cape Care Coalition, P. O. Box 3023, Wellfleet, MA 02667

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm interested in volunteering    \_\_\_\_\_ Send me more information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

For a full description of the Cape Care Draft Model Plan, visit [www.capecare.info](http://www.capecare.info).

### Support Grows for Cape Care

- In 2006, eleven Town Meetings across Cape Cod voted to support the development of this plan.
- In 2007, the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates passed a resolution to “support and encourage” the continued development of Cape Care.
- Cape Care Coalition (CCC) is supported by the **Cape Cod Foundation** through the generosity of the Jesse and Juanita Grimes Fund for Humanitarian Services and the Jean B. Edgerly Memorial Fund; the **Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.**; the **Unitarian Universalist Fund for a Just Society**; and the financial and in-kind support of many **individuals, organizations, and businesses**.
- CCC has engaged our state legislators with the intention of introducing enabling legislation for the 2009-2010 session. Most have been encouraging, *but they need to hear from you*.



### How can I help?

#### Study the Plan:

See the updated plan at [www.capecare.info](http://www.capecare.info). As this plan evolves, it is important that residents of the Cape study it and comment on what they feel meets or does not meet their – or the community’s – needs.

#### Support the Vision and Spread the Word:

Learn about the plan and talk to your friends, neighbors and other Cape Cod residents.

#### Lobby the Legislature:

Contact your Massachusetts State Senator and Representative and let them know that you support Cape Care and want them to do the same. For your legislators’ contact info, visit [wheredoivotema.com](http://wheredoivotema.com).

#### Become a Volunteer:

There are action teams working to expand public awareness of this initiative. Please volunteer to help, there’s plenty to be done; and attend a quarterly meeting (see our website calendar for date and location).

#### Make a donation:

You can show your support and encouragement in a direct manner by making a donation to help the Coalition cover costs, including a paid coordinator.

### Cape Care Coalition

P. O. Box 3023, Wellfleet, MA 02667  
(877) 700-8070  
email: [info@capecare.info](mailto:info@capecare.info)  
[www.capecare.info](http://www.capecare.info)

# Cape Care Coalition

Community-owned  
health care for Cape Cod

#### Our mission:

Create a regional, community-owned health care system to provide all Barnstable County residents comprehensive and affordable health care, delivered through the current and expanded network of providers.

A group of concerned citizens and medical professionals have been working since 2003 for an equitable health care system for Cape Cod.

This may be the first example in the nation of a regional single-payer health care system, and we hope it will serve as a model for state plans or even a federal plan for the whole country!

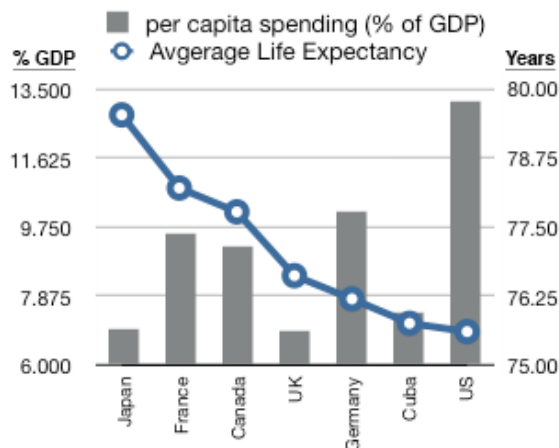
## What's Wrong with the Existing Health Care System?

The US is the only major industrialized nation without universal health care, yet it spends far more on health care than any other nation. And Massachusetts spends more than any other state. The current 'system' is an expensive, inflated, inefficient, disjointed patchwork of programs; in many cases it does not work for those who are covered, not to mention the 50 million who are not. All too easily, people fall through the cracks. At current health care inflation rates, health care costs will consume the present national budget by the year 2050. Pharmaceutical, diagnostic, and for-profit health care corporations 'earn' huge profits, but as the graph below shows, increased spending doesn't translate to longer life expectancy for US citizens.

Health care professionals are swamped with paperwork, severely limiting the time they can spend with patients, and unnecessary tests are routinely ordered in fear of lawsuits or because they are profitable.

### Health Care Spending and Life Expectancy

1995 Data from World Bank



Over thirty percent of health-care dollars go towards CEO bonuses, administration costs and overhead to investigate and pay (or deny) claims, money which could be spent on quality health care and preventive health measures. It is a grossly inefficient and unfair system benefiting for-profit corporations, not the patients who foot the bill.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***Is this "socialized medicine"?***

No. The Cape Care model contains no government ownership. Hospitals, clinics, laboratories and pharmacies will remain privately owned, and all health professionals will remain sole proprietors or privately employed (the Veteran's Administration system *is* an example of socialized medicine). The key to the plan is consolidated financing – having a single insurance plan, available to all residents, that receives and pays all medical bills. Locally controlled and administered and not for profit, services will be provided in the same health care settings as they are today.

#### ***What about my choice of health care provider?***

Cape residents will be free to choose their own doctors, dentists, and other licensed professionals.

#### ***What about employers who provide health insurance benefits?***

Employers will no longer be directly responsible for health insurance for their employees, and coverage will be unrelated to employment.

#### ***What if people who are currently insured choose not to switch plans?***

Enrollment will not be mandatory. However, we intend to develop a health plan that

attracts nearly all residents with cost control, comprehensive benefits, wide provider acceptance and choice, health promotion and integrated quality care features.

#### ***Why just for Cape Cod?***

We firmly believe that a universal, single payer health care system would be best for the whole country. But such initiatives have proven difficult to implement. Many experts believe that a regional system has a greater chance of success, and could be a model for the rest of the country.

#### ***What about the Commonwealth Connector?***

Cape Care will meet Chapter 58's criteria of adequacy and seek approval as a health plan or "insurance" option for Barnstable residents. If the funding for the Connector fails to keep up with rising costs however, Cape Care could function independently.

#### ***How Will Cape Care Be Financed?***

The exact formula for financing Cape Care is still being developed, but we do know that it will be community owned. Financing formulas under consideration include federal health care revenue streams and a balance of sliding-scale premiums, an income tax levy, a payroll tax on employers, and/or a property tax surcharge. Like public libraries, public schools, fire and police protection, Cape Care will be financed by the community in order to serve the community.

#### ***Are single-payer/universal health plans experimental?***

No. They finance many national health care systems, such as Canada, Cuba, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and Taiwan, and have been studied by many states in the US.

### How Can Cape Care Help?

- Cape Care can generate substantial cost savings by reducing the high administrative overhead of commercial insurance plans and by controlling the soaring costs of health care delivery through: budgeting; improved coordination of care; volume discounts on drugs, supplies and services; reduction of clinical waste; and more.
- Consolidated financing and reduction of waste generate better health care for all – for no more than we now spend, and with much greater control over the content and quality of that care.
- A public health approach to risk reduction and disease control with an emphasis on preventive health measures will improve the quality of life, preventing illness and disability while helping to control costs.
- Bankruptcies and foreclosures due to health care debt will end.

### The Next Steps

Over the next months, Coalition members will further develop the Cape Care plan and continue meeting with legislators, holding public forums, and building grass roots support, culminating in filing a bill in the Massachusetts Legislature by early 2009 enabling the creation of Cape Care.

Although we don't envision quick or easy passage, it gets the legislative ball rolling. The Coalition is collaborating with MassCare, a statewide single-payer advocacy group experienced in the state's legislative process.

**We need your help to  
Make Cape Care a Reality**