



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, & Cultural Development
Massachusetts General Court
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REPRESENTATIVE KEENAN ANNOUNCES NEW HEALTH PLAN FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Representative Keenan today announced a new plan launched by the Massachusetts Health Connector this month to help small businesses better cope with the escalating cost of health insurance.

“Small businesses have been among the hardest hit in this down economy,” said Representative Keenan. “The elimination of membership fees that small businesses historically face for such a plan and reduction of administrative costs is welcome news.”

Representative Keenan explained that the new Business Express program is for small businesses with 50 or fewer employees. For some businesses with five or fewer employees, the savings may be more than \$300 per employee per year. Select network plans may offer savings that range from 10 to 15 percent.

Employers will be able to select from a full array of options offered by major carriers whose plans have been recognized by the Health Connector for their quality and value. Carriers selected for the program are Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, CeliCare,

Fallon Community Health Plan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Health New England, Neighborhood Health Plan and Tufts Health Plan.

Small business owners can find out more about the plan by calling a broker or going to the Health Connector's website, www.mahealthconnector.org. They may also call the Health Connector's customer service line at 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765). The TTY line for people with partial or total hearing loss is 1-877-623-7773.

“I am deeply committed to helping lower the cost of health insurance for small businesses that represent the lifeblood of our community” said Representative Keenan. “We still have a long way to go, but I am encouraged by this new program from the Health Connector. Small business owners owe to themselves to check it out.”

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