

The Boston Globe

THE PULSE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Meanwhile, in the Bay State . . .

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“[STATE’S HEALTH coverage still high](#)” by Kay Lazar (Metro, June 9) points to the good news of near-universal health coverage for Massachusetts residents. However, the cost of coverage remains problematic for low-wage workers, including those who provide daily services and supports for elders and people with disabilities.

According to a recent study by PHI and Tufts University professor Amy Lischko, home care workers are increasingly working only part-time hours in order to qualify for subsidized coverage through Commonwealth Care.

These low-wage workers simply cannot afford the premiums for employer-based coverage, yet they cannot get subsidies if their employer offers coverage. This Catch-22 will hurt Massachusetts elders and people with disabilities as demand for home and community-based services and supports grow.

Giving these workers the option to choose Commonwealth Care over more expensive employer-based coverage would help the state ensure an adequate supply of home care workers for its rapidly aging population.

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