



**Massachusetts Association  
of School Committees**

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**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES  
POSITION PAPER - 2014**

**INTERGENERATIONAL PRIORITIES**

Massachusetts School Committees recognize that the economic security of the family is important in creating for children a socially and emotionally strong environment for learning. In addition, children today often rely not only on their parents, but also on the extended family that includes others, including grandparents.

Several important federal programs have intergenerational reach and MASC believes that the economic and social wellbeing of all Americans is linked.

For this reason, we support the following federal public policy initiatives that provide some measure of social and economic security to the American family in all its forms.

1. Continue the scheduled implementation of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the Health Care Act and Reconciliation Act of 2010. Implementation of major provisions of these statutes will take place over the next several years. These laws will, in time, provide access to health insurance for families not otherwise covered, and will ensure that children will have access to essential medical services. At a time when as many as 30% of economically disadvantaged children suffer from an undiagnosed or untreated vision, hearing, dental, or other physical or mental health problem, providing a pathway to care for every American public school student will help overcome a significant roadblock on the highway to academic success.
2. Protect and implement as scheduled the provisions of PPACA that expands Medicaid coverage to cover all adults earning below 133% of the federal poverty level. This will protect access to health care for certain adults who are members of households in which children reside, including adults who support families where they are not parents of children within the household.
3. Take such steps as are necessary to ensure the solvency of the Social Security System and strengthen the program to protect benefits for not only all current enrollees, but also for all classes of beneficiaries now entitled to benefits. This includes preserving coverage for retirees, beneficiary spouses, persons with disabilities, surviving spouses, and surviving dependents and children. In Massachusetts approximately 60,000 children currently receive Social Security benefits as survivors or as children of disabled adults.

**For further information contact:**

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