

**Office of the Vermont Secretary of State**  
**Vermont State Archives**

**1999: Proposal 5**

**Subject: Health care as a right of citizenship**

PROPOSAL 5

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would establish health care as a right of citizenship and obligate the state to protect this right.

Sec. 2. Chapter I, Article 22<sup>nd</sup> of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

ARTICLE 22<sup>ND</sup>. [RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE]

That the rights established in Chapter I, Article 9<sup>th</sup> of this Constitution also include the fundamental right of every citizen to be equally protected in the opportunity to obtain decent care for the maintenance of good health, and for the prompt diagnosis and treatment by competent professionals of illness and injury; that for the common good, the government should institute comprehensive health care benefits that are available to all citizens regardless of an individual's current health or financial status; and that it is therefore the obligation of the General Assembly to enact by law such measures as may be necessary to ensure that by July 1, 2005, the citizens of Vermont have equal access to a system of universal health care that safeguards this fundamental right.