



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

DEMETRIUS J. ATSALIS  
REPRESENTATIVE  
2<sup>ND</sup> BARNSTABLE DISTRICT

ROOM 167, STATE HOUSE  
TEL. (617) 722-2810  
FAX: (617) 722-2846

Committees:  
Natural Resources  
Bonding  
Culture and Tourism

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT: Tom Bernardo**

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

**PHONE: 508-246-5500**

### ATSALIS ANNOUNCES NEW HEALTH PLAN FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

**State Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis**, Barnstable 2<sup>nd</sup> District, 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 Atsalis. “The elimination of membership fees that small businesses historically face for such a plan and reduction of administrative costs is welcome news.”**

**Atsalis** 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](http://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 Atsalis. He concluded, “We still have a long way to go, but I am encouraged by this new program from the Health Connector. Small business owners owe it to themselves to check it out.”**

###