

## **HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Boston, MA, February 19, 2003 – Health Care For All’s board of directors announced the appointment of John E. McDonough as its new executive director. Mr. McDonough is currently an Associate Professor of Health Care Policy at the Florence Heller School of Social Welfare at Brandeis University. He served in the Massachusetts Legislature for fourteen years representing the Jamaica Plain, Roxbury and North Dorchester neighborhoods of the City of Boston. As a Massachusetts lawmaker Mr. McDonough’s accomplishments included the passage of legislation in 1996 that expanded children’s access to health insurance that inspired Congress to enact the Children’s Health Insurance Program in 1997.

Health Care For All is a nationally respected, nonprofit, membership based organization that was founded in 1985. As the leader of the movement for universal access to health care in Massachusetts, it is the most successful state based consumer health organization in the United States with a budget of more than \$2 million and a staff of 30. Health Care For All has played a leading role in shaping all of the Commonwealth’s health access programs for children and underserved populations over the last decade. It is dedicated to developing a high-quality, fair health care system that is responsive to the needs of the many groups that it must serve. In recent years, Health Care For All has extended its activities beyond legislative reform to aggressive legal advocacy with the creation of its legal arm, Health Law Advocates, Inc., and the development of major policy reports on the effects of federal and state laws and programs and budget decisions on the ability of Massachusetts residents to obtain affordable, quality health care.

Mr. McDonough replaces Robert Restuccia who has been Health Care For All’s executive director for the past 14 years. Since 2000, Mr. Restuccia has divided his time between Health Care For All and Community Catalyst, Inc. serving as executive director of both organizations. Community Catalyst, Inc. is a national advocacy organization that builds health access campaigns in other states using the Health Care For All model. Beginning May 1, 2003 Mr. McDonough will take over the leadership of Health Care For All, and Mr. Restuccia will focus full time attention on Community Catalyst.

In his remarks to the board and staff of Health Care For All, McDonough said, “It hasn’t been that difficult to be somewhat on the sidelines over the past several years, when there was more money for health access, and so many active friends of health access. The real time of testing is here, as never before. We all need to work together as never before to meet these challenges.”

“I’m very excited to turn over the reins at Health Care For All to such a terrific advocate,” said Restuccia. “In John we have a fine leader with a rare combination of legislative experience, ties to academia, and deep roots in organizing. I see this move as a huge boost in building a consumer health movement in Massachusetts. It’s also going to be critical to health care campaigns through the country.”

**Mr. McDonough will assume his new role on May 1, 2003.**

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