

Monday, Sept. 14 2014

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Good evening. My name is John Robinson and I serve as the president of the Cambridge chapter of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. Mass Senior Action is a grassroots, senior-led, statewide organization that helps seniors fight for their rights and well being.

As you may know, despite Medicare's foundation, thousands of seniors in Massachusetts still struggle to afford and access the healthcare they need. Not only do people 65 and older spend on average three times more of their income on healthcare than those under 65, but seniors also face critical Medicare coverage gaps and do not have access to important assistance programs. Despite the Commonwealth's reputation for championing healthcare reform, seniors, especially those with low incomes, have been left behind.

We are here tonight to ask you to support Mass Senior Action's campaign to lower the cost of healthcare for seniors in Cambridge and the rest of the state. Specifically, we will be working with the Governor-elect and other decision-makers to raise the income eligibility limit and eliminate the asset test for Medicare Savings Programs, raise the asset limit for MassHealth, and simplify the confusing application process for assistance programs.

We thank councillors Simmons and Cheung for their support, and we look forward to working with the city council and the Cambridge delegation to the State House to make sure seniors live healthier, happier lives that will enrich our communities as well. Thank you for your time.