

## **Arlington Town Meeting — Main Motion**

**ARTICLE NO. 91**

**Dated: 4/23/2026**

I, Greg Dennis, do hereby submit the following Motion:

**Voted:**

That Town Meeting does and hereby resolves as follows:

WHEREAS, the United States remains one of the few developed nations that does not have a publicly-funded system of universal health care and sees health outcomes far lower and health costs far higher compared to other developed nations; and

WHEREAS, the current patchwork system of health insurance provided by multiple private companies incurs administrative and overhead costs as much as 10 times that of traditional Medicare, yet fails to provide comprehensive, affordable, quality health care to all Massachusetts residents; and

WHEREAS, more than 40% of Massachusetts residents report difficulty affording health care and the Massachusetts Division of Insurance approved an average health insurance rate increase of 11.5% for 2026; and

WHEREAS, the federal “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” will strip approximately \$3.5 billion annually in funding for health care from Massachusetts and cause up to 300,000 Massachusetts residents to lose health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the escalating costs incurred under the current health care system continue to pose an unnecessary burden on the residents, businesses, and government of Arlington; and

WHEREAS, the bill entitled “An Act Establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts” before the state legislature would establish a single-payer system of universal health care in Massachusetts through the creation of a health care trust, funded in part by a payroll tax that would cost less than the health insurance premiums most pay today, while providing comprehensive medical, dental, vision, and long-term care regardless of income or employment status; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of said bill would eliminate over \$54 billion in unnecessary spending and return nearly \$30 billion to the Massachusetts economy annually, according to researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of said bill would have saved Arlington over \$16 million in FY2027, eliminating the need for the FY2027 override, and had it been enacted a decade ago, would have saved Arlington nearly \$100 million to date; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of said bill would save the average town employee over \$2,700 per year in premiums while delivering additional savings through the elimination of co-insurance, co-pays and deductibles; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of said bill would establish a funding mechanism for health care independent from that of the federal government and beyond the reach of the Trump administration; and

WHEREAS, 74.9% of Arlington voters in the 23rd Middlesex district in November 2022 and 72.5% of Arlington voters in the 24th Middlesex district in November 2024 voted “Yes” on a ballot question to “create a single-payer system of universal health care” in Massachusetts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Arlington, through the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, endorse and support House bill H.1405 and Senate bill S.860, “An Act Establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts,” and any subsequent refilings of substantially similar legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall cause copies of this Resolution be sent to State Senator Friedman, State Representatives Garballey and Rogers, Governor Healey, and members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

**Comment:**

Initial submission of a main motion. This is not a revision, substitute, or amendment to a previously submitted motion.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Greg Dennis*

Precinct 1

Date Voted: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_