

Massachusetts health-care reform

2006 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

care — attention and help for someone or something

law — a rule made through government

access — a way to reach, enter, or use something

Look closely



Massachusetts State House

Read the story

Governor Mitt Romney signed a law intended to expand health insurance coverage. The reform changed how many Massachusetts residents obtained insurance. It became influential in later national debate.

The state law was an important model for the Affordable Care Act, but the two laws were not identical. This is historical context, not current advice about benefits, eligibility, or medical care.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: Deval Patrick becomes governor

2007

Deval Patrick took office as Massachusetts governor. He was the state's first Black governor. His inauguration marked a change in representation. A governor's work also needs study through policies and decisions.

Patrick won election in 2006 and took office in 2007. Representation is one important part of a political history; examine governing records and public debates as well as a milestone.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Governor Mitt Romney signed a law intended to expand health insurance coverage. The reform changed how many Massachusetts residents obtained insurance. It became influential in later national debate. The state law was an important model for the Affordable Care Act, but the two laws were not identical. This is historical context, not current advice about benefits, eligibility, or medical care.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

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[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.