

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 493**

Short Title: Health Care Fundamental Right. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, Alexander, Wright (Primary Sponsors); Luebke and Weiss.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 17, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO  
RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article I of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"Sec. 38. Health care.**

Health care is an essential safeguard of human life and dignity, and there is an obligation for the State to ensure that every resident is able to realize this fundamental right. Not later than July 1, 2006, the General Assembly shall provide by law a plan to ensure that by July 1, 2010, every resident of North Carolina has access to appropriate health care on a regular basis."

**SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the general election in November 2004, which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

"[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

Constitutional amendment providing that health care is a fundamental right."

**SECTION 3.** If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the amendment to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment so certified among the permanent records of that office.

**SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.