

# Hampden District (Senate)

## Single-Payer Candidate Questionnaire

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**Candidate: Amaad Rivera**

Question #1: Do you support a Single Payer healthcare system for Massachusetts?

**Yes.**

Question #2: If yes, why? If no, how would you propose making health care truly affordable for everyone in your district and the Commonwealth while also bringing down the rising cost of healthcare?

**I know first hand how deeply our healthcare system is broken. Several years ago, my father who was a Correctional Officer with the State of MA was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, he was given several months to live. He fought cancer for two years, but even with a great middle class job and "good" insurance, his medical bills skyrocketed.**

**My father lost his battle with cancer at 50, and that required us to sell his home to cover the cost of his medical bills.**

**No family should have to experience that and too many do.**

**Here in Hampden, we have some of the greatest disparities in health outcomes in the country. MA residents pay 31% more for healthcare than any state in the country, and this region has the worst air to breathe for people with Asthma in US.**

**We need a new system and new ideas to address the ongoing cost of healthcare in this state.**

Question #3: Please write one sentence that best expresses your current position on establishing a Single Payer system in Massachusetts.

**It should not take us a generation to work on smart policy, like Single Payer, to address the high cost of healthcare in MA.**

Question #4: According to all research studies and the experience of other countries, a Single Payer system brings costs down while providing affordable health care for everyone. What is your biggest question or concern about establishing Single Payer in Massachusetts?

**There are several types of Single Payer systems across the world, we should look into the best system that would fit Massachusetts the best, and I am unsure which would work best to reduce cost and expand coverage.**

Question #5: If elected, what would you do inside the Statehouse to advance Single Payer legislation and how soon would you begin? Who would you work with in your district?

**I would cosponsor and lead the effort to pass the study called "Medicare for All" before the State Senate on day 1. My 14 year incumbent opponent, has refused to cosponsor this piece of legislation and voted to send the bill to die in "study". We deserve more, and we should expect better.**

Question #6: What do you see as the biggest obstacle(s) to passing legislation for Single Payer in the Commonwealth?

**My State Senator, who serves as the chair of Health Care Finance and voted to silence even a study of Single Payer Healthcare.**

**I also believe that we need to work on developing smart tools to help break down confusion for a Single payer system or smart government options.**

Question #7: If elected, will you help initiate and actively participate in a legislative caucus to advance Single Payer legislation?

**Yes. It one of many reasons I was inspired to run for office. We need a bold and present State Senator who will fight for the policies that will make a difference in people's lives. This is what I have been doing my entire career, as a former Springfield City Councilor and former Policy Advisor to US Senator Ed Markey. I am running to be a bold leader on important legislation like Single Payer Healthcare.**