

*Office of Representative James E. Vallee*  
State House, Room 238

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**REP. VALLEE ENCOURAGES CONSTITUENTS TO SUGGEST  
HEALTH CARE REFORM IDEAS AND WIN \$10,000**

(Boston) – Representative James E. Vallee (D-Franklin) has announced an exciting opportunity for residents in his district to get involved in improving the current way health care is provided to citizens across the United States. Health Care reform efforts are underway across the country, especially at the state level, but the goal of affordable, clinically appropriate, and broadly accessible health care remains elusive.

Health care spending currently accounts for almost 15% of the Gross Domestic Product and, according to the Congressional Budget Office; it is projected to grow to over 30% by the year 2035. Public sector programs account for a significant portion of this growth, with Medicare projected to grow from 3% to more than 7% of GDP over the same period. This untenable situation will come to fruition unless citizens and lawmakers do something that will significantly change the current way we provide health care to the citizens in our country.

Pioneer Institute, a non-profit research group, is sponsoring its 18<sup>th</sup> Better Government Competition (BGC), which seeks ideas from individuals about ways to improve the quality and costs associated with private health care.

The winner of the competition will receive a \$10,000 prize presented at the BGC Awards Dinner in June 2009. Runners up will each receive \$1,000 for their proposals to improve education in Massachusetts.

“Providing affordable and quality health care is of paramount concern to lawmakers and citizens alike. I urge my constituents to participate by sending their ideas for reforming health care to Pioneer Institute’s Better Government Competition,” said Representative Vallee. Vallee continued; “this is a great way for constituents to get involved and approach an issue that may be very important to them.”

“Finding practical ways to improve the quality of life in Massachusetts is what Pioneer is all about,” said Jim Stergios, Executive Director of Pioneer Institute. We appreciate Representative Vallee working with us to attract greater ideas from citizens and experts across the state and around the country.”

For more specific information about how to enter the competition Representative Vallee urges his constituents to log on to the Pioneer Institute's website at: [http://www.pioneerinstitute.org/programs\\_bgc.php](http://www.pioneerinstitute.org/programs_bgc.php). Or, if you prefer, contact Shawni Littlehale, BGC Director at 617-723-2277 or email her at [slittlehale@pioneerinstitute.org](mailto:slittlehale@pioneerinstitute.org).

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