



## *Your Voice for Public Health*

434 Jamaica Way • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • TEL: (617) 524-6696 • FAX: (617) 524-5225 • [www.mphaweb.org](http://www.mphaweb.org)

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Dear MPHA Members and Public Health Colleagues,

This afternoon, Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby announced the appointment of John Auerbach as the next commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Her press release predicts that under his leadership, DPH will regain its status as one of the nation's premier health departments.

John is an outstanding public health leader whose vision and experience make him the ideal choice for DPH commissioner. His selection further demonstrates how seriously the Deval Patrick administration is committed to preventing disease and injury and to protecting the health and safety of our communities and workplaces. We are particularly proud that John currently serves as president of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Public Health Association.

For nearly ten years, John has worked as executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). He is widely respected for groundbreaking work toward eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, implementing one of the nation's strongest tobacco control bans, and initiating city-wide asthma, cardiovascular, and cancer programs. He has also led model planning to address the threats of pandemic influenza and other public health emergencies. Earlier in his career, John served as chief of staff and director of the HIV/AIDS bureau at DPH and also worked in hospital and community settings. He has strong support from local public health leaders across the state and is highly regarded across a wide range of public health disciplines and constituencies.

MPHA advocated strongly for the appointment of an experienced public health professional to lead DPH in the Patrick administration. We could not be more pleased with Dr. Bigby's selection. John Auerbach's appointment, coupled with the administration's recent budget proposal to significantly increase public health funding in FY08, marks a dramatic change in the environment for public health. With significant health challenges facing the Commonwealth, we hope that you will join in welcoming John to his new post.

Sincerely,

Geoff Wilkinson  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Public Health Association