

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Question 1 Opposed by the Tri-Valley Board of Directors

On October 15, the Board of Directors of Tri-Valley, Inc. unanimously voted to go on record against Question 1. Question 1 on the November 4th ballot will have enormous negative impact on services and programs for older people and for just about everyone else in Massachusetts who relies on state or local services.

If voters repeal the state income tax on November 4th, the state budget will have to be cut by roughly 45% or \$12 to \$13 billion. Our schools, police, fire, road maintenance, local aid, and human services will all see a major loss of financial support.

Specifically for the elderly, cuts in services will be painful, and deep:

- As many as 15,300 seniors could lose their home care services entirely - over \$60 million in lost funding!
- \$26 million could be cut from the enhanced home care program, dropping services to roughly 2,200 elders.
- 3.4 million meals on wheels could be lost statewide.
- \$720 million in state and federal funds could be lost for nursing home care, affecting over 14,400 residents.
- The new "Community First" program could lose \$27 million, eliminating over 7,000 people from the program.
- Nearly \$26 million in drug benefits for the elderly are in jeopardy.

If the income tax repeal passes, it will significantly harm our communities, economy and everyone from children to senior citizens.

On behalf of the Tri-Valley Board of Directors,

Marilyn L. Travinski
Executive Director

(For More Information Contact: Marilyn Travinski or Barbara O'Brien, 508-949-6640)