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Rep. Provost helps host forum on quality care issues

Sun Mar 08, 2009, 08:00 AM EDT

Somerville - Massachusetts residents share personal experiences of poor quality healthcare in four videos to illustrate why healthcare quality needs to be improved across the state. The videos, co-sponsored by Health Care For All and the Consumer Health Quality Council, will debut Thursday, March 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. in Hearing Room B1 at the State House. Legislators will talk about recently filed bills that will improve the quality of healthcare.

Poor quality care is devastating — in lives lost, disabilities, and recovery costs — and it doesn't have to happen. As consumers, everyone is at risk. But consumers have had little say in efforts to improve healthcare quality. The Consumer Health Quality Council brings together more than 40 individuals who have been personally affected by healthcare quality issues and are motivated to advocate for quality improvement.

Speakers will include Sen. Richard Moore (D-Uxbridge), Rep. Denise Provost (D- Somerville), Rep. Kay Kahn (D- Newton), Paula Griswold, executive director, the Massachusetts Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors, and five council members featured in the videos — John McCormack, Jen Tosca, Robena Reid, Lucilia and Joe Prates.

Medical errors injure approximately one million Americans each year during the course of their hospital stay; up to 100,000 of those patients die as a result, causing more deaths than car accidents, breast cancer or AIDS. Medical errors can also lead to disability, extended hospital stays and lengthy recoveries — costing the nation an estimated \$17 to \$29 billion per year.

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