

## Health Committee 2012-2013

On October 20<sup>th</sup> the Health Care Committee conducted an educational forum on ballot question #2, "Prescribing Medication to End Life", a "Law Proposed by Initiative Petition" which was narrowly defeated Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. About one hundred people attended.

An outstanding panel of experts addressed the medical, legal, and medical ethical issues involved. Rebekah Gewirtz, Director of Government Relations for the National Association of Social Workers, represented Dignity 2012, the sponsor of the ballot measure. Dr. Maryanne C. Bombaugh, who practices in Falmouth and Chairs the Committee on Legislation of the

Massachusetts Medical Society and former president of the Barnstable Medical Society presented the Massachusetts Medical Society's position. David Rehm, president and CEO of HopeHealth discussed the intersection of palliative care and death with dignity. Dr. Marc D. Silverstein, recently retired as Chief Decision Scientist at the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review at Massachusetts General Hospital and currently serving on the Ethics Committee of Cape Cod Hospital, analyzed the decision process involved in medical ethics..

Following their presentations, the panelists answered questions from the audience submitted in writing for about 45 minutes. The Cape Cod Community Media Center taped the forum and broadcasted it several times before the election on Channels 99 and 19.

Joan Bernstein

Chair