

PRESS RELEASE

April 14, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Public Forum on Health Care Financing:

Where Are Our Health Care Dollars Going and What Can We Do About It?

RESCHEDULED *NEW Date/time:* April 30, 2013 6:00 PM

Location: Franklin Memorial Hospital, G. H. Bass Room,
111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington ME 04938

Maine AllCare will present a public forum on health care reform: *Where Are Our Health Care Dollars Going and What Can We Do About It?* The forum will be held at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington on April 30th at 6 PM. Everyone is welcome.

The **main speaker** for the evening will be **Julie Pease MD**, a psychiatrist and president of Maine AllCare. Members of the **expert panel** include, in addition to Dr. Pease: **Sen. Geoff Gratwick MD, Alice Knapp Esq., and Garrett Martin**, executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy. The discussion and following Q&A will be **moderated by Joe Lendvai**, chair of communications for Maine AllCare.

The audience can expect answers to questions, such as:

- Where, why, and how much money are we wasting on healthcare, without increasing benefits or quality of care?
- Why are we the only industrialized nation without a national health system?
- Why will over 27 million people have no coverage once the Affordable Care Act is fully implemented?
- How many people die each year because of lack of medical insurance?
- What is the prevalence and fear of medical bankruptcy?
- Why should health care be a human right, and what principles should be included in a system that is available to us all?
- What benefits can a universal, single-payer system provide for individuals, employers, hospitals, and the whole economy?
- How can a universal, single-payer system be achieved?

The March 4, 2013 TIME Magazine cover story by attorney/journalist Steven Brill highlights the complexity and confusion surrounding medical costs, making this community dialogue most timely. Additionally, two reports, one by the Institute of Medicine and another by Consumers for Affordable Health Care conclude that health care spending continues to be wasteful nationally, and insurance costs continue to escalate here in Maine. Perplexingly, Governor LePage and some political leaders have been extolling the “success” of Maine’s PL 90, Maine’s health insurance reform law passed in May 2011, claiming that 17 percent of small groups renewing their policies saw a decrease in premiums. No mention is made of the rates of the other 83 percent of policy holders, nor of the 13 percent who dropped their insurance altogether.

Please come and join the discussion and learn what you can do to get involved. For more informations please contact John Sytsma MD 778-9825 or Joe Lendvai 359-8306
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This event is sponsored by Maine AllCare, an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit organization, whose goal is to promote quality, affordable, equitable and universal health care for Maine people through research, education and advocacy. Maine AllCare is Maine state chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP).