



PRESS RELEASE

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Re: Major Progress Toward Health Care for Everyone in Maine – Legislature Passes LD 1345 as Amended

On April 2, 2014 the Maine State Senate passed LD 1345, the resolve "... *that all Maine residents have access to and coverage for affordable, quality health care.*" The vote to approve the bill was 20 to 14, along strict partisan lines. The Senate vote followed action from the previous day when the House passed LD 1345 by a 91 to 52 majority vote. Four Unenrolled and three Republican members of the House of Representatives voted in support of the bill.

Dr. Julie Pease, chair of Maine AllCare, a non-partisan all-volunteer statewide organization that promotes universal healthcare, commented, "Maine AllCare supporters are very pleased with this result. Recent surveys have shown us that over 64 percent of Maine physicians, and over 70 percent of Maine people support healthcare for all. These votes indicate that the majority of our legislators are listening to their constituents, who strongly favor real health care reform which will bring quality health care to everyone in Maine."

Further, "*The amendment requires the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction for insurance and financial services matters to solicit the services of one or more consultants to propose design options for creating a universal system of health care in the State. The resolve requires the consultant or consultants to submit a proposal by December 2, 2015 containing at least 3 design options that comply with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.*" In other words, the Legislature wants to have solid data in hand, based on a current comprehensive study of all aspects of our health care financing and delivery system.

The next steps will see the bill move back to the House, then onto the Governor.

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Maine AllCare is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes quality, affordable health for all Maine people.