



PRESS CONFERENCE

WHEN: Thursday, January 9, 2014 Noon - 12:45PM
WHERE: Room 221, Cross State Office Building, Augusta ME
SUBJECT: **Citizen Advocates in support of LD 1345, "An Act To Establish a Single-payor Health Care System To Be Effective in 2017"**
CONTACT: Joe Lendvai, 207 359-8306, 266-3550 cell, jlendvai@mainallcare.org or Phil Caper MD 370-2119 pcpcaper21@gmail.com

Maine AllCare will hold a Press Conference prior to public hearings on Maine LD 1345, perhaps the most important proposed legislation in health care to be addressed by the state Legislature during 2014. The bill, once implemented, will provide unfettered access to needed health care to every Maine resident, regardless of financial, physical or social circumstances. Everybody in, nobody out.

The immediate result of the bill would be economically transformative for our state. Harvard economist Dr. William Hsiao estimated that the state would realize \$1 billion savings just the first year in overall health care costs after implementing a single payer health care bill.

To date, Maine AllCare has commitments from over 40 citizens from around our state – patients, providers, business owners, community leaders – to speak before the Joint Committee on Insurance and Financial Services, in support of the bill. Each with a story to tell. Many of these people will be available to the Press at our noon Press Conference on Thursday, January 9th at the Cross State Office Building in Augusta.

The following leaders will also be present and available for interviews:

Rep. Charlie Priest, Sponsor of LD 1345
Julie Pease, MD, President, Maine AllCare
Phil Caper, MD, Vice President, Maine AllCare
Alice Knapp, Esq., member, Maine AllCare Board of Directors
Bruce Vermeulen, economist, member Maine AllCare Board of Directors
John Newton, Executive Board, Maine AFL-CIO, member Maine AllCare Board of Directors

Attached is PDF Copy of a Summary of LD1345 prepared by Maine AllCare.



LD 1345, 126th Maine State Legislature

An Act To Establish a Single-payor Health Care System To Be Effective in 2017

BILL SUMMARY

Part A of the bill establishes the **Maine Health Benefit Marketplace** as the State's health benefit exchange as authorized by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to facilitate the purchase of health care coverage by individuals and small businesses. The Maine Health Benefit Marketplace is established within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The bill requires coverage to be available through a State-based marketplace and requires the Executive Director of the Maine Health Benefit Marketplace to submit a declaration of intent to establish a state-based exchange under federal law to the federal Department of Health and Human Services as soon as is practical. The bill also requires the executive director to submit applications for any available federal grant funding to support planning and implementation of the exchange as soon as practicable.

Part B of the bill establishes the **Maine Health Care Plan** to provide security through high-quality, affordable health care for the people of the State. The plan will become effective and binding on the State upon the approval of a waiver from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. All residents and nonresidents who maintain significant contact with the State are eligible for covered health care services through the Maine Health Care Plan. The Maine Health Care Plan must conform to the minimum essential benefits required under federal law, but may require additional benefits within existing resources. Health care services under the Maine Health Care Plan are provided by participating providers in organized delivery systems and through the open plan, which is available to all providers. It establishes the **Maine Health Care Agency** to administer and oversee the Maine Health Care Plan, to act under the direction of the **Maine Health Care Council** and to administer and oversee the **Maine Health Care Trust Fund**. The Maine Health Care Council is the decision-making and directing council for the agency and is composed of 5 full-time appointees.

Part B also directs the Maine Health Care Agency to establish programs to ensure quality, affordability, efficiency of care and health care planning. The agency health care planning program includes the establishment of global budgets for health care expenditures for the State and for institutions and hospitals. The health care planning program also encompasses the certificate of need responsibilities of the agency pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 103-A.

The bill contains a directive to the State Controller to advance \$600,000 to the Maine Health Care Trust Fund. This amount must be repaid by the Maine Health Care Agency no later than two years after the plan takes effect.

PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 6, 2014 2:00PM

We hope you will attend our Press Conference as well as the public testimonies by Maine citizens in support of LD 1345.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact Joe Lendvai 359-8306
joelendvai@gmail.com or Dr. Phil Caper 370-2119 pcpcaper21@gmail.com

Thank you.

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Maine AllCare is an all-volunteer Maine-based nonprofit corporation dedicated to the goal of achieving universal, high quality and affordable health care for all Maine people through research, education and advocacy.