



FAQ - Resolve, Directing the Development of Legislation Establishing a Publicly Funded System of Health Care Coverage for All Maine Residents

Why now? We have often hoped and tried to get the conversation of a state-based health care plan into the mainstream public sphere. The pandemic unfortunately thwarted our signature-gathering efforts in 2021. Since that time, the problems with our health care system have reached crisis levels despite multiple incremental efforts to address them. Health insurance has become unaffordable. The “Big Bad Bill” has left thousands of Mainers without healthcare coverage. A number of [essential medical services have closed](#) in the past year, and more closures are planned. Many Mainers do not have access to primary care.

Why a citizens’ initiative? The signature-gathering process gives an opportunity for tens of thousands of Mainers to demand action from the incoming Governor and state legislators. [A successful ballot initiative will allow us to have a “year-long” grassroots educational process in 2027](#), in Maine, on state-based universal health care. It will bring the healthcare reform conversation into the mainstream.

What about the legislative option? In 2021, the Maine legislature showed its support for a universal health care system in Maine by enacting Public Law 2021, chapter 391. This act sets up the Maine Health Care Board, charged with developing a plan that would “provide for all medically necessary health care services for all residents of the State.” The law, however, made appointment of the Board contingent on passage of a federal law “authorizing a state to obtain a waiver to establish a state-based universal health care plan and to receive federal financing for that plan.” Unfortunately no such federal action has been taken since this law was enacted.

During the 2027 legislature, Maine AllCare will ask our legislators to pass [a bill that would remove this contingency language from current law](#). It would allow the Maine Health Care Board to be established, to identify feasible and concrete implementation steps to transition Maine to a universal health care system. Simultaneously a looming referendum, backed by thousands of signatures, will provide a powerful incentive for the Legislature to respond.

But how will Maine pay for universal healthcare? We are already paying for it. We don’t have it because we are currently paying into a complex, fragmented and inefficient system. A simple single-tier, single-payer system, combined with negotiation of prescription drug prices would reduce costs enough that we could cover everyone with generous benefits, for about the same as what we are paying now. Two studies by the Maine Center for Economic Policy, in [2019](#) and in [2024](#) have demonstrated that a state based universal healthcare program is fiscally feasible and sustainable.

How can I help? Here are links to the [HCAM website](#), to [Volunteer](#) and to [Make a Donation](#).

If you prefer to mail your contribution (which directs 100% of your check to the Referendum account without online user fees), please mail your check, payable to HCAM-Referendum to:

Health Care for All Maine, PO Box 1, Alna, ME 04535

For more information: www.HealthCareForAllMaine.org info@healthcareforallmaine.org
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