



MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

ACTion Alert

January 13, 2014

State Legislative Activity

ACTION NEEDED: LD 386

Last session, the legislature overwhelmingly passed LD 386, a bill to restore coverage of smoking cessation benefits to the MaineCare program. Despite almost unanimous legislative support, the Governor vetoed the bill on Friday, stating that because beneficiaries would not be charged co-payments for the services, the bill "expands welfare unchecked." However, since 2011, CMS has recommended to states that they cover smoking cessation services with no co-pays or deductibles, citing the fact that "several peer reviewed studies have found that reductions in patient out-of-pocket costs increase both the use of cessation services and overall tobacco quit rates." The bill would have a negligible financial cost to the state and provide proven financial and health benefits to Mainers.

Please visit the following website and contact your legislators before Thursday to urge them to override the veto of LD 386. A vote is expected this Thursday.

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/legislature.htm>

Thank you for your quick action to this Maine Public Health Association priority bill!

Maine Public Health Association

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