



MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

ACTion Alert

May 30, 2013

URGENT: Help Fight Heart Disease and Cover Maine Now!

Hello MPHA members- my apologies for the forwarded message (below), but I couldn't say it any better than my friend and colleague Becky Smith.

This has been a tough session - we have passed numerous important public health measures through the House and Senate only to be vetoed by the Governor. This week we lost the fight for a state-wide smoke-free campus bill (veto override vote was 85-54- a loss by THREE votes) that would have protected tens of thousands of students and employees from involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke. Though the bill had no opposition, 54 of our legislators were not willing to stand up to the Governor.

Prevention is the cornerstone of public health and its difficult to prevent disease when you don't have reliable health insurance and a medical team to coordinate your care. Please read the email below and act today - tell our elected officials that enough is enough. It's time to stop playing politics with public health.

Save lives. Save money. It's that simple.

Despite the Governor's veto last week, we are still confident that, with your help, we can get this done. If the Maine Legislature is willing, the federal government will pay 100% of the cost for tens of thousands of Mainers to have access to affordable health care coverage. The time is now.

The plan would reduce overall health care costs and save millions of taxpayer dollars being spent treating uninsured people in emergency rooms. And more importantly, more Mainers would have access to lifesaving heart disease screenings and treatment. We have all the data. We know what we have to do, but we need your help.

The Legislature will consider the plan this week. **Please send a message to your legislators today!**

<http://yourethecure.org/aha/advocacy/composeletters.aspx?AlertID=33010>

To say no is to surrender to the status quo. It could mean a life-threatening diagnosis coming too late, more expensive treatment and a lower chance for survival. Plus, it would lead to more people going to the ER and a continuation of uncontrolled health care costs in our state. Hard-working, low-income Maine families need the security of quality health coverage to get lifesaving care when they need it, without facing huge medical bills.

And, the federal government will pay 100% of the cost for three years. Then, it will still pay at least 90% of the costs every year after. Accepting the money will save lives and save money.

Thank you for taking action!

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