



PRESS RELEASE

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Coalition Will Continue to Push for Accepting Federal Funds *Legislature Fails to Override LePage Veto*

AUGUSTA – The Cover Maine Now! Coalition, which supports accepting federal funds to provide health coverage to more Mainers, released the following statement today after the Legislature failed to override the veto of LD 1487, “An Act to Provide Fiscal Predictability to the MaineCare Program and Health Security to Maine People.”

“Today ideology won out over good public policy. Maine is the only state in New England to refuse the federal health care funds. We are disappointed that a minority of lawmakers would refuse access to health care for thousands of hardworking Mainers,” said Sara Gagné-Holmes, executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners and a leader of the Cover Maine Now! Coalition. “Because of the actions of Gov. LePage and a handful of lawmakers, nearly 70,000 Mainers will suffer and some will die unnecessarily because of their inability to access health care.”

Although today’s vote is a setback, there are still two bills (LD 1578 and LD 1640) tabled in the Legislature that would require Maine to accept the federal health care funds.

“Today’s vote doesn’t mean we are done fighting this year. This issue is too important to the health of our friends, family and neighbors to simply walk away when opportunities still exist to accept the federal funds,” Gagné-Holmes said. “Accepting these funds will save lives, draw down millions of federal dollars into Maine’s economy, create needed jobs and prevent potential tax penalties for large employers.”

The Cover Maine Now! Coalition, which includes 100 organizations, was formed to support accepting federal funds that have already been set aside to provide health care coverage to more Maine people.

For a full list of coalition members, visit: <http://www.covermainenow.com>

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