



## PRESS RELEASE

**CONTACT: Sara Gagné-Holmes**  
**(207) 626-7058, Ext. 201**  
[sgh@mejp.org](mailto:sgh@mejp.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 24, 2013**

### **Poll: Voters Strongly Support Expanding Access to Health Care** *Nonpartisan Poll Finds Nearly 70 Percent of Mainer's Support Accepting Federal Funds to Provide Health Care to Nearly 69,500 People*

**AUGUSTA** – A new statewide poll released today shows that Maine voters overwhelmingly support accepting federal dollars to expand access to health care for nearly 69,500 Mainers who are currently uninsured.

The poll, which was conducted March 31-April 3, shows that 68.1 percent of respondents support the expansion, including 58.1 percent who definitely support and 10 percent who somewhat support. Only 18.4 percent said they definitely oppose the expansion.

“Expanding access to affordable health care to thousands of people in our communities makes sense for Maine,” said Sara Gagné-Holmes, executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners. “Accepting federal funds will enable thousands of Maine people to be healthier and more secure knowing that they have access to care when they need it. It is an opportunity Maine cannot afford to pass up.”

The poll found that 65.2 percent of respondents have a close friend or family member who does not have health insurance, and that 49.6 percent had either delayed medical care for themselves or had a family member who had delayed care because of concerns over cost. In addition, the poll found that nearly half of respondents, 47.9 percent, have received health care through Medicaid or had a member of their family or close friend who had.

“Despite working hard every day, too many Maine people are just one illness or one accident away from financial ruin because they lack access to affordable, adequate health care coverage,” said Garrett

Martin, executive director of Maine Center for Economic Policy. “Accepting federal funds will create jobs, boost Maine’s economy and provide care to thousands of hardworking Maine people.”

The expansion of access to health care is made possible by the Affordable Care Act, which makes federal funds available to expand access to health insurance to 69,500 Mainers, a majority of whom have jobs but either can’t afford health insurance or could soon lose it.

The Maine People’s Resource Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization recognized for its quality and accuracy, conducted the poll. The poll surveyed 400 registered Maine voters in likely voter households. The margin of error is 4.9 percent, 95 times out of 100.

The poll can be found at: [http://mprc.me/research/0413\\_health\\_results.pdf](http://mprc.me/research/0413_health_results.pdf)

The Maine poll’s results are similar to [national polling](#), which has found that 62 percent say state’s should accept federal funding to expand access to health care while only 19 percent say their state should turn the money down.

The Cover Maine Now! Coalition, which includes more than 85 organizations, was formed to support accepting federal funds to expand access to quality, affordable health care.

The coalition supports [legislation introduced by Rep. Linda Sanborn](#) of Gorham that would authorize Maine to accept federal dollars to expand access to health care. The bill, LD 1066, “An Act To Increase Access to Health Coverage and Qualify Maine for Federal Funding,” has support from Democrats, Republicans and Independents in the Legislature and is scheduled for a work session on April 25.

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

###