

Press Release
October 24, 2008

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No on One Coalition Responds to Chamber of Commerce Lawsuit

American Medical Association Director Speaks Out on No on One

Statement in response to the filing of a lawsuit in Kennebec County Superior Court by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Oct. 23. The Chamber's lawsuit asks the Court to declare the former funding formula associated with the Savings Offset Payment unconstitutional, which would result in the elimination of the funding for the Dirigo initiatives.

“For months, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Yes on One organizations have been telling Maine voters to vote Yes in their multi-million dollar ad campaign funded by the national beverage industry. A Yes vote would repeal the new law and send Maine back to the old law and the old way of funding health coverage initiatives in Maine.

The Chamber and the Yes on One spokespersons have been telling Maine voters that a yes vote will not affect those currently in the Dirigo program; that no one would be hurt by Maine returning to the old law and the old funding as Dirigo Health would still exist.

Yesterday they filed a lawsuit which, if successful, will result in the elimination of Dirigo Health and its initiatives. Maine voters should be outraged by this lawsuit and the deception of the past several weeks. The No on One Coalition will study the details of the filing and make specific comments at our Press Conferences on Monday.”

Dr. Joseph P. Annis, a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association will appear at the two Press Conferences Monday on behalf of the No on One Coalition.

Dr. Annis states “I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association and am coming to Maine at the invitation of the Maine Medical Association to convey the AMA's support for the No on One Coalition's campaign to defeat the effort of the national beverage industry to repeal important provisions of Maine's new law, Chapter 629.”

Dr. Annis will address the national reputation of Maine as a leader in health coverage reform and the AMA's stand on taxes on sugared drinks, beer and wine as a means to address the nation's health care crisis.

The Press Conferences will be held:

Monday, October 27, 2008

10:00 AM Portland, Maine
Offices of Engage Maine 565 Congress Street 3rd floor Conference Room
(between Oak Street and Forest Avenue)

1:30 PM Bangor, Maine
Offices of Neurology Associates of Eastern Maine 498 Essex Street

No On One Coalition

Maine Medical Association

Maine Primary Care Association

Maine Nurse Practitioners Association

Maine Academy of Family Physicians

Physicians for Social Responsibility – Maine Chapter

Maine Children's Alliance

The Downeast Association of Physician Assistants

American Academy of Pediatrics Maine Chapter

Maine Chapter – American College of Physicians

Maine Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse

Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs

Maine Direct Care Alliance

Maine Urological Association

Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians

Disability Rights Center

Maine Center for Economic Policy

AARP

Maine Equal Justice Partners

Maine People's Alliance

Maine AFL-CIO

Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Engage Maine

Maine People's Resource Center

Maine Women's Lobby

MSEA-SEIU Local 1989

Family Planning Association of Maine

Partner's in Ending Hunger

The League of Young Voters

Maine Association of Mental Health Services

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

The Children's Center

Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services

National Association of Social Workers Maine Chapter

Greater Waterville Communities for Children & Youth Prevention Coalition

Environmental Health Strategy Center
