



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 6, 2008

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## **Consumer Group Helping Lewiston-Auburn Find Health Coverage Solutions**

(Augusta)- Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) is joining the Auburn Public Library to help people find answers to their health coverage questions. As Maine’s largest health care coalition we thought it was important to take part in the “Energy 911, Help With Heat” conference Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street.

We are taking part in this important event for the public because more and more we’re seeing people having to chose between filling their prescriptions or filling their oil tank. Seeing their family doctor or being warm is not a choice people should have to make. But, as the economy worsens and more people lose their jobs they are losing their health insurance. It can become a vicious circle. Without their health, it is difficult to find work or continue to work.

That’s where CAHC staff come in. For ten years our non-profit organization has run a toll free health care **HelpLine at 1800-965-7476**. Through that we help residents navigate the confusing health care system and hopefully find answers to their health care and coverage questions. We focus on issues ranging from letting people know if they qualify for public insurance programs that help with the cost of health care or coverage to helping people over the phone with filling out their public or private insurance applications. It’s worrisome to us that so far this year we’ve already seen 35% more calls to our HelpLine than this time last year. It shows us that Mainers are struggling more than ever to get the health care they need.

One of our health care and health coverage educators will be at the conference to answer any questions. Or, you can call the **CAHC health care HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476**.

**Where:** Auburn Public Library, 49 Spring Street

**When:** Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1:00-4:00 pm

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**For more information or to schedule interviews contact:**

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*"Health care should be a right not a privilege."*