

PRESS RELEASE

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Maine Insurance Superintendent to Address Congregations, Unions and Others on Health Coverage Issues

Kennebec Valley Organization Focusing on Health Care at 4th Annual Convention.

(Skowhegan, ME) Superintendent of Insurance, Mila Kofman joins the Kennebec Valley Organization (KVO) in hopes of finding answers to the lack of quality, affordable health care for many central Mainers. Kofman will talk about “The State of Health Insurance”, at KVO’s 4th Annual Convention and Supper at Centenary United Methodist Church in Skowhegan. The event is happening Sunday, November 16th from 4:00-6:00pm. Up to 50 delegates, representing ten congregations, union locals and a professional groups from all over the Kennebec Valley , will be there. The delegates are hoping to take the information gathered at the convention and make plans for continued campaigns to address health care, housing, and other community concerns.

Two former Skowhegan clergy who recently left the area – Rev. George L. Hodgkins, Jr. and Rev. Maurice Morin, former pastors of Centenary UMC and Christ the King Parishes respectively - will be honored at the event for their formative roles in KVO.

In the last year, KVO has focused primarily on pushing for quality, affordable health care for all. The group organized a series of community round tables over the summer drawing 100 people, resulting in the adoption of a “Declaration of Health Care Principles” that spells out the group’s top priorities for health care reform. (see: www.kvorg.org/KVO_Declaration_of_Health_Care_Principles_final.pdf) In September KVO held a candidates forum on health care in which 13 candidates for the Maine Legislature and U.S. Congress agreed to these principles and committed to working with KVO to achieve them.

“It is a common belief of many of our different faith traditions and community values that a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable,” said KVO President Rev. George Hodgkins, Jr. “The fact that so many Mainers can’t get decent health care is the sign of a society crying out for justice.”

KVO has also worked with allies such as Maine People’s Alliance and Consumers for Affordable Health Care to call for transparency in the private health insurance market, and action on health care reform proposals at the state and federal level.

SO PLEASE JOIN US!

WHAT: The Kennebec Valley Organization 4th Annual Convention and Supper

WHERE: Centenary United Methodist Church, 113 Dr. Mann Road, Skowhegan.

WHEN: November 16th from 4 – 6pm

WHY: Because everyone deserves to see their family doctor when they need to. (or something like that)

Ms. Kofman, has served as the Superintendent of Insurance in Maine since March 2008. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Kofman was an Associate Research Professor and Project Director at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute. She has worked with KVO and other stakeholders recently to produce a report on health insurance options for direct care workers.

About KVO:

KVO was founded in 2005 as an organization of religious congregations, labor union locals, community and small business groups in Central Maine that brings people together across lines of religion, geography, age, ethnic group, and economic status to build relationships, develop leaders and take action on issues of shared concern. Past KVO campaigns have led to improved mental health crisis response, a higher minimum wage, and the creation of the Mid Maine Time Bank.

Members of KVO include Christ the King Parish, Skowhegan area; Centenary United Methodist Church, Skowhegan; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1768, Skowhegan; First Congregational Church (U.C.C.) of Waterville; Corpus Christi Parish, Waterville area; Fairfield Church of the Nazarene, Fairfield; Maine Personal Assistance Services Association, statewide; MSEA-SEIU Local 1989, statewide; and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Hallowell.

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