



**Consumers for  
AFFORDABLE  
Health Care**

*Advocating the right to health care  
for every man, woman and child.*

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## Health Care Advocates Partner with Religious Groups Hoping to Find Answer to Health Care Crisis

Maine's largest consumer health coalition, Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC), has been invited by the Kennebec Valley Organization (KVO) to help identify solid solutions to the tremendous health care problems Maine and the Nation are facing. CAHC Health Care Policy Analyst, Doug Clopp will be one of four panelists at the KVO Special Delegates Assembly on Health Care **Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm at the First Congregational Church at 7 Eustis Parkway in Waterville.** The other panelists are, Glenn Beamer, Director of Margaret Chase Smith Center, Peter Crockett, Health Care Organizer of Central Maine Labor Council, and Kerry Sirios, Administrator for Mount St. Joseph Nursing Home.

*Consumers for Affordable Health Care believes everyone should have the right to quality, affordable health care. I commend the KVO for working together to build consensus around the guiding principles of health care reform for the people of the Kennebec Valley, and for recognizing the vital importance of the issue. -Doug Clopp, CAHC Policy Analyst.*

The Kennebec Valley Organization is a broad-based organization of religious congregations, labor unions, community and small business groups that brings people together across lines of religion, geography, age, ethnic group, and economic status to take action on issues of shared concern, such as saving, strengthening, and creating good jobs, affordable housing, and critical public services.

*KVO includes a broad diversity of institutions and people, but we all share some common values, including a belief in the inherent dignity of each person. Lack of quality, affordable health care is an insult to that dignity, an insult we are committed to ensuring nobody in our community should endure. -Dan Koehler, Kennebec Valley Organization Lead Organizer*

While Maine has a comparatively low number of people without insurance at about 130,000, that is still unacceptable. If you are sick, you should be able to see your family doctor. Often, even those with insurance still can't afford to do that. The sky-rocketing price per month (premiums) for coverage, and the high out of pocket costs people must pay before insurance will pick up any of the tab (deductibles) are making it so health care is a commodity for the wealthy. Hundreds of thousands of Mainers who have insurance still can not afford to get care when they are sick because of our broken health care system. More than half of those claiming bankruptcy nationwide are doing so because of health care costs, and most of them had insurance.

The delegates will hear some of the health care stories shared by more than 100 members of KVO, and will work to adopt guiding principles for health care reform. The panel of policy experts will explain the current status of health care in Maine and the country and the best possibilities for reform. Participants will then decide on an action plan that will help achieve the ultimate goal of health care for every man, woman and child. **Community members are invited to come as observers and guests, but will not be able to take part in the discussion unless they are registered members of KVO.**

Big out of state companies are investing a lot of money to lobby for laws that increase their profits at the expense of Maine consumers. Consumers for Affordable Health Care is a non-profit organization that works to protect YOUR interests because it is the right thing to do, not because we have a financial stake in the outcome. We are Maine's largest consumer health coalition, made up of health care professionals, businesses, unions and other organizations that represent hundreds of thousands of Mainers, We have been working hard for 20 years to bring quality, affordable health care to every man, woman and child in Maine.

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