

Press Release
November 4, 2008

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No on One

Health Coverage for Maine

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The No on One Coalition thanks all the voters in Maine who voted NO on Question 1. We are grateful to all those who saw past the \$3.7 million hype of the national beverage companies and voted to replace the old method of funding our health coverage system. We are disappointed that the new legislation – Public Law 629 – will not move forward. This law would have moved Maine forward in providing affordable health coverage and quality preventive care to our children, families and small businesses.

Now we are back to the old law, which means Maine faces the time and expense of a court challenge once again from the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. If the Chamber succeeds in its lawsuit we are very concerned about the 18,000 current enrollees in the Dirigo Health program and the 1,500 on the waiting list. We are also disappointed that the assessment on health claims will return to its higher level. And the lower and stabilized rates for the 40,000 Mainers who pay for their own insurance will have to wait for another day.

However, we are so very proud of our efforts the past eight weeks. There is a lot of momentum in Maine to continue working on our problems with health coverage and especially keeping our kids healthy. We are excited about looking ahead and we welcome the beverage companies to our conversation – we hope that instead of fighting us using \$3.7 million they will now step up to the plate and be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. We urge them to partner with us.

We are so proud of our Maine-based campaign. We especially thank our grassroots volunteers and our media team at URSUS Media Group in Waterville who worked 24/7 to help us produce great ads and get them out to the voters in the most cost efficient and timely manner possible.

We have many challenges ahead of us, especially considering the budget problems which the next Legislature faces. We will look at those challenges as opportunities to continue the discussion on fairer ways to fund our programs and how to use our dollars to the best benefit possible. Keeping all of us healthier means our economy will be healthier. Thank you very much.

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.