



**Consumers for
AFFORDABLE
Health Care**

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 2, 2008 at 10:00 AM

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“People’s” Veto Funded Solely by Corporations

The People’s Veto campaign to stop the current funding of health care for thousands of Mainers has been paid for solely by corporate dollars. That’s according to a Political Action Committee report just filed with the State Ethics Commission. Special interest lobbyists have injected almost \$200,000 into the “Fed Up With Taxes PAC” in an effort to derail Maine’s efforts to provide quality, affordable health care to more of its residents. Not one dollar of this campaign has come from the “people” of Maine, and about \$100,000 of it has already gone to a California-based company which is paying people to collect signatures in our state. The corporations need about 55,000 signatures by July 17th to get the veto on the ballot. The corporations and associations that contributed include:

Coca Cola Bottling	\$1,000
Maine Beer and Wine Wholesalers	\$100,000
Maine Restaurant Association	\$25,000
Maine Beverage Association	\$25,000
Maine Soft Drink Association	\$15,000
Maine Automobile Dealers Association	\$10,000
Maine Innkeepers Association	\$6,000

Imagine how many sick, hard-working Maine families this money could’ve helped! Based on 2007 numbers from the state at least 455 people could have had all of their health care needs for a full month paid for with that money. The law these corporate dollars are trying to repeal is providing health care to 18,000 thousand children, families and small businesses, will open up the Dirigo Health program to more Maine families who need care, and help control the growing costs of insurance for about 40,000 thousand other hard-working Mainers.

The law calls for a small tax increase on malt beverages, wine and soft drinks. What that means for the common serving sizes is less than **three cents** on a 12 ounce can of beer, less than **four cents** on a 12 ounce can of soda and **seven cents** on a whole bottle of wine. **No milk** products are taxed. **No juice** that is more than 10% natural is taxed. **No water** that is free of syrup will be taxed.

Consumers for Affordable Health Care is a non-profit that has worked for Maine people for 20 years striving to get them the health care they need and deserve. We believe this tax is a reasonable short-term step toward taking care of Mainers’ health care needs until a funding plan of “shared responsibility” is adopted to make coverage more affordable for everyone.

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“Health care should be a right, not a privilege.”