



**Consumers for
AFFORDABLE
Health Care**

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

News Release

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Mainers Supporting “Health Care Bill of Rights”

Public Hearing for LD 1205 Will Likely Be Standing Room Only.

(Augusta) Dozens of Maine people plan to speak out in support of bill, LD 1205 when it comes to public hearing **Monday, April 13th at 1:00 PM**. Because of the large crowd expected, the hearing has been moved from the Insurance and Financials services room in the state house to the **Business, Research, & Economic Development Committee Room 208 in the Cross Office Building**.

The bill calls for insurers to give people more information about their care and coverage so that Mainers can make better choices for themselves and their families.

“We need this bill, especially in this poor economy. If we are ever to cut costs in our health care system, and raise the quality of the care we are getting, we need to know what we are paying for. Once we have saved money through the measures this bill calls for, then we can use some of the savings to insure those who need it and bring down costs for those who are already insured. And we shouldn’t stop here. We need to do more for people losing their coverage,” says Joe Ditré, Executive Director of Consumers for Affordable Health Care.

A lot of the policies in the bill were recommended in a report released in January by Consumers for Affordable Health Care and the Maine Voices for Coverage campaign. You can view that report here: <http://www.mainecahc.org/foundation/Transparencyreport.htm>

- Have you wanted to compare which insurance plan would be best for you, but couldn't get the information from the insurance companies to do so?
- Have you thought that something was covered, and then gotten a bill after the fact because it wasn't actually covered in your plan?
- Do you have a hard time understanding the information you get from your insurance company?
- Have your insurance costs gone through the roof, but you can't get an explanation why or an opportunity to do anything about it?
- Have you wondered how much of your premium goes toward actual medical care?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then LD 1205 will help you. This bill asks insurance companies to address these questions and more.

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As health care consumers, we are the ultimate payers of all health care and coverage bills. We should have the right to the information that will allow us to spend our hard earned money more wisely.

People who can't attend the hearing but still want their opinion heard can email comments to Consumers for Affordable Health Care at dclopp@mainecahc.org. We will make sure they are read at the hearing. They can also email Superintendent of Insurance Mila Kofman directly.

Consumers for Affordable Health Care is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has been helping Maine people get quality, affordable health care for more than 20 years. CAHC collectively represents about 200,000 Maine people.

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