



A 'Yes' Vote on 2: Stronger Economy and Better Health

Question 2 on the 2017 ballot will ask Mainers if they want to expand Medicaid. Volunteers from across the state collected more than 61,000 signatures from every county in the state to put Question 2 before voters.

Mainers are clear – they want more access to affordable health care, not less.

Federal funds were earmarked for Maine three years ago that would provide health insurance to 70,000 Mainers by expanding Medicaid coverage. The Legislature passed legislation five times to put these federal funds to work for Maine. The Governor and a minority of lawmakers have blocked this common sense solution, costing the state an estimated \$1.2 billion.

The cost of health care, and especially prescription drugs, is taking a heavier and heavier toll on our families and neighbors, and the failure to expand Medicaid is hurting Maine hospitals. We have the opportunity to do something about that right now.

The majority of states are already reaping the benefits. Thirty-one states have expanded coverage through Medicaid. They are reporting significant benefits, savings and improved economies as a result. These states (including those with Republican governors) are fierce advocates for a program that's working.

This goes beyond the moral imperative of providing access to affordable coverage to 70,000 Maine people who can't afford it. Expanding health coverage will benefit Maine and our people in many ways. It will:

- Create more than 3,000 good paying jobs throughout Maine, including in rural parts of the state where jobs are desperately needed;
- Bring more than \$500 million in new federal funds to our state each year;
- Save the state over \$27 million in savings to the state of Maine through decreased state funded health care spending and savings to our criminal justice system;
- Help to address Maine's drug crisis by greatly improving access to treatment services for uninsured people struggling with addiction;
- Increase access to health care for women *and their children*; when parents are covered and able to access health care their children are also more likely to receive the health care services they need in order to thrive;
- Help to hold down insurance premiums in the private market;
- Prevent family illness or health problems from turning into bankruptcy, loss of a home, and destitution;
- Bolster the health of Maine's workforce; and
- Provide more resources for community health centers and hospitals throughout the state.

We are building a broad, professional campaign with state and national partners, and have a bipartisan majority in both the Maine House and Senate to protect the initiative once it's enacted. Early polling shows strong support for the initiative across the state and among all groups.

Join Us! Check out www.MainersforHealthCare.org to learn how you can get involved!