



# Expand Maine Care:

## Because every life matters

During the last legislative session, we missed an opportunity to give more health care by falling just 2 votes short of overturning Governor LePage's veto. We can't afford to let that happen again. Lives depend on it.

Please ask your legislator to support expanding Maine Care in the upcoming legislative session.

### Why we should:

- The Affordable Care Act includes the largest expansion of publicly-run health insurance since the creation of Medicaid and Medicare more than forty years ago.
- Maine Care (Maine's Medicaid Program) expansion will help us move toward establishing health care as a public good to which everyone deserves access and for which government should be responsible.
- Maine Care is more affordable, accountable, and cost-effective than any insurance products sold by for-profit companies.
- Maine Care has been effective in helping low-income families stay healthy and making our communities healthier and stronger. Let's build on this success and take another step toward ensuring that everyone in our state can get the care they need, when they need it.
- Everyone has a right to health care, regardless of how much money they make. Far too many Mainers struggle to meet their fundamental needs. Without health insurance, they face financial ruin from just one accident or one serious illness. We must not let that happen in our state. We can do better.

### What happens if we don't:

- Lawmakers that refuse an opportunity to cover uninsured people are telling many of their constituents that their lives do not matter.
- If we don't act to expand Maine Care, 25,000 low-income people will lose their health insurance in 2014. They will be unable to get the care they need simply because they can't afford private insurance. Why would we ration access to health care in this way, when our state can easily cover every one of them?
- If we don't act to ensure access to health care for Mainers now, every six days another person will die whose life could have been saved through health insurance. Countless more people will be left suffering.<sup>1</sup> We can help prevent this by expanding Maine Care, which will provide health insurance for an additional 65,500 Mainers, paid for by federal funds.

<sup>1</sup> "Interpolating from a 2009 Harvard Medical School study that estimated 45,000 Americans died each year from inadequate health care because of their lack of insurance (among 50 million uninsured), 63 Mainers will unnecessarily die annually. The Harvard study didn't calculate the pain and suffering endured due to lack of health insurance." Read more: <http://thephoenix.com/boston/news/154612-legislative-decision-86-mainers-to-die-by-elect/#ixzz2ZnNBqrDb1>