



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Coalition Asks Gov. LePage to Reconsider Opposition to Health Care Expansion**

**AUGUSTA** – The Cover Maine Now! Coalition today issued the following statement asking Gov. Paul LePage to reconsider his opposition to legislation that would expand access to health care to 69,500 Mainers.

“There are thousands of people struggling without access to health care. They go to work everyday, but they don’t earn enough money to afford health insurance. They are one accident or illness away from ruin. It doesn’t have to be this way,” said Sara Gagné-Holmes, executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners, one of the lead organizations in the Cover Maine Now! Coalition. “We are asking that Gov. LePage consider the legislation enacted today with an open mind, and we’re hoping that he can recognize all the good it will do for Maine people, our hospitals and our economy. We hope that he won’t turn his back on the people of Maine who need him.”

“As a recent study published in Health Affairs shows, cancer patients are at much greater risk of bankruptcy than people without cancer,” said Hilary Schneider, Maine government relations and advocacy director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. “Cancer patients should not have to worry about how to pay their medical bills when they are fighting for their lives. Access to health care coverage is one of the most effective ways to prevent and detect cancer early, treat cancer effectively and improve the quality of life of patients enduring cancer treatment. ACS CAN urges Gov. LePage to be a leader in the fight against cancer by accepting the federal dollars already set aside for Maine to increase access to lifesaving care for thousands of Maine individuals and families.”

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