



PRESS RELEASE

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Coalition Will Continue to Push for Accepting Federal Funds *Legislature Fails to Override LePage Veto*

AUGUSTA – The Cover Maine Now! Coalition, which supports accepting federal funds to provide health coverage to more Mainers, released the following statement today after the Legislature failed to override the veto of LD 1066, “An Act to Increase Access to Health Coverage and Qualify Maine for Federal Funding.”

“Partisan politics today won out over good public policy. We are disappointed that a minority of lawmakers would refuse access to health care for thousands of hardworking Mainers,” said Sara Gagné-Holmes, executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners and a leader of the Cover Maine Now! Coalition. “Because of the actions of Gov. LePage and a handful of lawmakers, nearly 70,000 Mainers will suffer unnecessarily as they are denied access to affordable health care.”

While today’s vote is a setback, the Cover Maine Now! Coalition will continue to advocate for accepting federal funds to expand access to health care.

“We have seen tremendous public support and growing momentum for expanding access to health care,” Gagné-Holmes said. “Today, we are disappointed because thousands of people will not have access to health coverage. Accepting these funds would have saved lives, created more than \$350 million in economic activity, created 3,100 jobs and prevented potential tax penalties for large employers. We will continue to advocate for accepting federal funding for this life-saving program.”

The Cover Maine Now! Coalition, which includes more than 85 organizations, was formed to support accepting federal funds that have already been set aside to provide health care coverage to more Maine people.

For a full list of coalition members, visit: <http://www.covermainenow.com>

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