



565 Congress St Ste 200 Portland ME 04101 (207) 797-0967 Fax (207) 797-4716 mpa@mainepeoplesalliance.org  
145 Lisbon St Ste 201 Lewiston ME 04240 (207) 782-7876 Fax (207) 782-3236 kate@mainepeoplesalliance.org  
27 State St Ste 44 Bangor ME 04401 (207) 990-0672 Fax (207) 990-0772 jesse@mainepeoplesalliance.org  
www.MainePeoplesAlliance.org

## PRESS RELEASE

Ben Chin, Federal Issues Organizer  
c: (207) 344-7888 / o: (207) 782-7876  
ben@mainepeoplesalliance.org

For Immediate Release  
Monday, June 22<sup>th</sup> 2009

## DOZENS OF MAINERS HEAD TO D.C.

### Maine will be well represented at the largest health care lobby day in history

PORTLAND - 49 Mainers from all over the state will be headed to Washington D.C. this Thursday, June 25th to lobby Maine's Senators and Representatives on the need for real health care reform in 2009. The group includes doctors, small business owners, and other Mainers who have suffered due to a lack of affordable health care.

These local lobbyists will be joining with thousands of other community volunteers from across the country to urge congress to pass real health care reform that includes a strong public plan to bring down costs and make health care coverage accessible to everyone in America. They will also participate in a mass demonstration in the Upper Senate Park.

"The healthcare system is most definitely broken." said Bethany Picker, M.D., of Lewiston, one of several Maine health care providers in attendance. "Doctors and patients together should be making healthcare decisions, not the insurance companies. A public health insurance plan will give good benefits and affordable price, and allow peace of mind that they will be covered, no matter what happens."

Many of the trip participants are members of the Maine Small Business Coalition, a group of more than 1,300 business owners who are seeking solutions to the high cost of health care for themselves and their employees.

"A public plan will reform health care, creating an environment where businesses, both big and small, can focus on what we need to do: create jobs, boost the economy and keep Maine 'the way life should be,'" said Melanie Collins, a registered nurse and owner of a child care business.

The event is being coordinated by Health Care for America Now, a national organization dedicated to health care reform.

"These people are headed to Washington because they care deeply about the state of health care in this country and they know that without their voices, change may not happen," said Ben Chin, the Federal Issues Organizer for the Maine People's Alliance. "Every poll shows that more than two-thirds of Americans want reform and support a public health care option, but Senators Snowe and Collins have yet to take a strong stand in favor of a public plan. They have a great deal of influence on the future of health care in this country and they need to continue to hear from Mainers, from Kittery to Madawaska."

- ### -

*Health Care for America Now - the nation's largest health care campaign - is made up of more than 1000 organizations representing more than 30 million people nationwide. President Obama and more than 190 members of Congress support HCAN's principles for health care reform. All across the country, HCAN supporters are organized and mobilized to stress the urgent need for health care reform in 2009, reform that finally puts health care needs before insurance company profits.*