



Testimony of the Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine

Neither for nor Against the Fund for a Healthy Maine Provisions in LD 1671, An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Years Ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011

Senator Diamond, Senator Brannigan, Representative Cain, Representative Perry, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Kellie Slate Miller. I am the Director of Public Health Policy at Maine Medical Association. I am here today, on behalf of the Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine, neither for nor against the provisions of LD 1671 related to the Fund. The Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine is a statewide coalition of organizations that range from the Maine Medical Association to Consumers for Affordable Health Care; from The Maine State Chamber of Commerce to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; from the Town of Van Buren's Recreation Department to the City of Portland. Many of us, like my organization, don't receive any money from the Fund and all are committed to making sure that the tobacco settlement money is used as it was originally intended – for programs that prevent and treat disease and promote good health.

When the first payments of Maine's share of the 46-state settlement of lawsuits against the tobacco industry were about to arrive, the 119th Legislature acknowledged the special purpose of this money and showed tremendous wisdom in creating the Fund for a Healthy Maine. They very intentionally included language that stated: "allocations from the fund must be used to supplement, not supplant, appropriations from the General Fund." They also chose the categories of programs on which tobacco dollars would be spent. They include tobacco addiction prevention, prenatal and young children's care, child care for children up to 15 years of age, prescription drugs for adults who are elderly or disabled, oral health, substance abuse and comprehensive school health. These crucial programs were chosen because they are deemed to be the most important and under-funded public health prevention measures in Maine.

However, we fully appreciate the current budget climate and we understand that everyone needs to pay their fair share. The Fund is taking a \$5.4 million cut in this biennium—approximately 4.5% of the total intended to help defray exponential future increases in health care costs. In making the proposed cut, the Governor has proposed flat-funding the Fund programs and sweeping any tobacco dollars that were either unspent or come in above last year's total. We, and the vast majority of people in Maine, believe it is crucial that any money from the tobacco settlement be used to support pressing public health needs. Every dollar spent on prevention saves \$7.50 in health costs over the next 5-years. That means this \$5.4 million, if used for prevention would save Maine \$40.5 million dollars.

The Fund for a Healthy Maine is a truly visionary concept and Maine has been recognized throughout the country because of this investment in preventing disease and promoting good health. The Fund for a Healthy Maine programs provide the foundation for a sustainable, affordable health care system. Today the importance of the Fund could not be more apparent – for Maine businesses, individuals, and the state budget, it is imperative that we get health costs under control. The Fund for a Healthy Maine helps Maine people get and stay healthy – it saves lives and it saves money.

My purpose for being here today, on behalf of the Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine and the individuals and communities that the Fund for a Healthy Maine programs serve, is to enlist your support and commitment to these programs and to the health and well-being of Maine people. We all know the pressures in front of you, but urge you to take long term cost into serious consideration as you consider any cuts to the Fund for a Healthy Maine. Thank you.



Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine

The following organizations strongly endorse efforts that will keep tobacco settlement money used as it was intended and prevent further diversions away from the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

ACCESS Health
Advocates for Children
American Cancer Society, NE Division
American Heart Association-Founders Affiliate
American Lung Association of Maine
American Nurses Association of Maine
Androscoggin Cardiology Associates
Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Aroostook Council for Healthy Families
Aroostook County Action Program
Aroostook Mental Health Services
Bangor Region Public Health and Wellness
Bridgton Community Center
Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition
Care Link/MRDC, Inc.
Caribou City Council
Child Care Services of York County
Children's Dental Clinic
Choose To Be Healthy
City of Portland
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Coastal Healthy Communities Coalition
Common Cause Maine
Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Day One
Downeast Health Services, Inc.
Downeast Healthy Tomorrows
Family Planning Association
First Congregational Church
Great Works Internet
Greater Portland Chambers of Commerce
Greater Somerset Public Health Collaborative
Greater Waterville PATCH
Greater Waterville's Communities for Children
Harrington Family Health Center
Health Policy Partners of Maine
Healthways/Regional Medical Center at Lubec
Healthy Acadia
Healthy Androscoggin
Healthy Aroostook
Healthy Casco Bay
Healthy Communities of the Capital Area
Healthy Community Coalition
Healthy Lakes Region
Healthy Lincoln County
Healthy Oxford Hills
Healthy Peninsula
Healthy Portland
Healthy Rivers Region
Healthy Waldo County
Horace Mitchell Primary School
Islands Community Medical Services, Inc.

Katahdin Area Partnership
Katahdin Valley Health Center
Kennebec Behavioral Health
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
Kennebunkport Public Health Department
Kittery Children's Leadership Council
Kittery School Department
Kno-Wal-Lin Homecare and Hospice
Knox County Community Health Coalition
Legal Services for the Elderly
Lewiston Public Schools
Maine AFL-CIO
Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
Maine Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse
Maine Assoc. of Interdependent Neighborhoods
Maine Association of School Nurses
Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs
Maine Cardiovascular Health Council
Maine Center for Public Health
Maine Chapter, National Assoc. of Social Workers
Maine Child Care Directors Association
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Children's Trust
Maine Coalition on Smoking or Health
Maine Co-Occurring Policy Exchange
Maine Council of Senior Citizens
Maine Dental Access Coalition
Maine Education Association
Maine Equal Justice
Maine General Health
Maine Hospital Association
Maine Medical Association
Maine Nurse Practitioners Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maine Peoples' Alliance
Maine Primary Care Association
Maine Public Health Association
Maine School Health Education Coalition
Maine Society for Respiratory Care
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Maine State Nurses Association
Maine Substance Abuse Foundation
Maine Winter Sports Center
Maine Women's Lobby
MaineHealth
ME Assoc. of Child Abuse and Neglect Council
ME Assoc. of Health, Phys.Ed., Rec. & Dance
Medical Care Development
Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce
Milestone Foundation
Mount Desert Island's Behavioral Health Center
My Attitude Saves Kids
Northern Maine Medical Center

Partners for Healthier Communities
Partnership for a Healthy Northern Penobscot
Pen Bay Healthcare
Penobscot Community Health Center
Penobscot Dental Access Coalition
Penquis
People's Regional Opportunity Program
Phoenix Academy of Maine
Piscataquis Public Health Council
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Power of Prevention
River Coalition
River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition
Roman Catholic Diocese of Maine
Sebastcook Valley Healthy Communities
Serenity House
Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine
Southern Kennebec Healthy Communities
St. Croix Valley Healthy Communities
Start ME Right
Teen and Young Parent Program of Knox County
The Community School
Town of Lincolnville
Town of Van Buren Recreation Department
Tri-County Mental Health Services
Union River Healthy Communities
United Way of Mid-Maine
University of Maine
Vital Pathways
Waldo County Dental Task Force
Wellspring, Inc.
Winter Kids
York Hospital
Youth Promise