

Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Hears from National & Local Experts

The legislature's newly-appointed *Joint Select Committee on Health Care Reform Opportunities & Implementation* held its initial meeting last Thursday, May 20th. The Committee and its staff spent a substantial amount of time on introductions and procedural matters, but then heard a comprehensive overview of the federal health care reform laws by Joy Johnson Wilson, a health policy expert with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). In the afternoon session, the group heard presentations by the following 3 state agency heads who will be involved in the compliance effort:

- Trish Riley, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Policy & Finance (GOHPF);
- Brenda Harvey, Commissioner of the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS);
and
- Mila Kofman, J.D., Superintendent of the Maine Bureau of Insurance.

The Joint Select Committee is composed of bipartisan representatives of the legislature's standing committees on Appropriations & Financial Affairs, Health & Human Services, and Insurance & Financial Services. You can find the Committee membership on the web at: http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/jt_com/hlt.htm.

You can find all of the Committee's materials on the web at: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/healthcarematerials.htm>.

The MMA will keep you informed of the work of this Committee through the *Maine Medicine Weekly Update* and other communications.