

Congressman Michaud Hosts Forum on Health Care Reform

Congressman Mike Michaud (D-2nd District) held a forum on the national health care reform debate from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, August 28, 2009 at the Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor. For more than 3 1/2 hours Congressman Michaud and members of his staff listened to members of Maine's health care provider community express their views about the national health care reform debate generally and H.R. 3200, the one bill voted out of committee in the House so far, specifically. Most speakers seemed supportive of health care reform in concept, but many expressed concern that Congress not act hastily and mentioned concerns specific to a particular provider type. Physicians were well represented in the list of 25 or so witnesses and the following testified:

- Gary Palman, D.O., Maine Society of Anesthesiologists
- Stephanie Lash, M.D., MMA
- Jon Fanburg, M.D., Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Julie Balaban, M.D., Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians/Maine Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- Joel Kase, D.O., Maine Osteopathic Association
- Larry Piazza, M.D., Maine Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
- Larry Mutty, M.D., M.P.H.
- Charles Pattavina, M.D., St. Joseph Hospital

Congressman Michaud and his Health Legislative Assistant, Jill Brimmer, also heard testimony from representatives of hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes, pharmacists, nurses, psychologists, physical therapists, dental hygienists, ambulance companies, community mental health centers, chiropractors, and hospice providers.

Physicians who wish to communicate with Congressman Michaud's office about the national health care reform debate may reach out to Jill Brimmer at jill.brimmer@mail.house.gov.