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The seasons change, but the demand from policymakers, the media, our partners, and the public for MECEP's detailed, thoughtful, and reliable research and analysis remains a constant. Recently we said goodbye as two respected staff members moved on and welcomed two new ones.

MECEP analysis of new census bureau data in September revealed how state policy decisions since passage of the Affordable Care Act have held Maine back from major improvements in states that have expanded and led to an actual decline in health coverage for thousands of children.

After success this year making Maine's state earned income tax credit (EITC) refundable, MECEP is now working to ensure renewal of critically important provisions of the federal EITC and child tax credit as well as improvements to make both more effective for Maine and America's working families.

## Quote

"If Congress lets the key provisions of the [federal earned income and child tax credits] expire, 37,000 Maine families, including 64,000 children, will lose some or all of their working family tax credits. A single [Maine] mom . . . would lose all but \$60 of her current child tax credit if Congress doesn't act."

*Eloise Vitelli and Garrett Martin, **Bangor Daily News**, September 7, 2015.*

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## MECEP Staff: Transitions

Over the summer we said farewell to two staff members who are embarking on exciting new career opportunities. Economist Joel Johnson has taken a leap into the private sector while policy analyst Christy Daggett moved back home to serve as senior manager at Aroostook County Action Program. MECEP thanks both Joel and Christy for

## Facts & Figures Medicaid Works in Maine

# 375,900

Mainers get quality health coverage through Medicaid.

Most are children, seniors, and people with disabilities.



126,000 of Maine's children get health care through Medicaid.

That's **4 of 9** kids in our state who can see a doctor when they are sick, and get the vaccinations and screenings they need to stay healthy, thanks to Medicaid.

Medicaid helps **8,200** of Maine's babies get a healthy start in life each year.



That's **63%** of births in our state.

**67,300** of Maine's seniors get health care through Medicaid, including nursing home care and services that help them live at home.



That's **31%** of seniors in our state.

Medicaid provides **75,800** people with disabilities in Maine access to critical care that helps them live independently.



That's **37%** of people with disabilities in our state.

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their contributions and wishes them the best in their new jobs.

We are pleased to announce two additions to our staff.

**Sarah Austin** joins MECEP as a policy analyst. Sarah holds a master's of public affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's La Follette School of Public Affairs and a bachelor's of science in environmental policy from Maine's Unity College. Prior to MECEP, she worked at the State Innovation Exchange at the Center on Wisconsin Strategy. Sarah has also worked on several issue campaigns in Maine and across the country on topics ranging from tax reform to non-discrimination.



Sarah Austin



Megan Michaud

**Megan Michaud**, formerly the policy and legislative director for Voices for Progress in Washington, D.C. is our new senior associate working on development and special projects. She previously worked for nearly 10 years on Capitol Hill as legislative staff, including serving as a legislative aide and later legislative director for former Maine Congressman

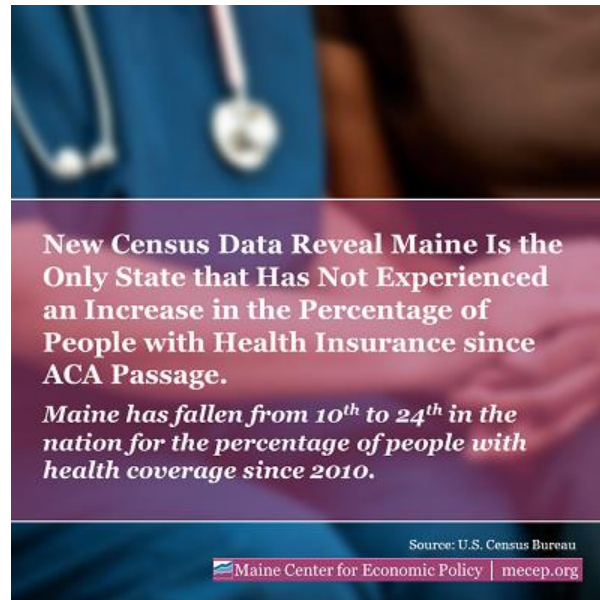
Tom Allen. Born and raised in Maine, Megan graduated from Colby College with a degree in anthropology and a minor in math.

## MECEP Urges Support for Campaign Finance Referendum



**Question 1**  
**Tuesday**  
**November 3rd**

MECEP is [a member of the Mainers for Accountable Elections Coalition](#), a broad, non-partisan coalition of grassroots organizations from throughout Maine that is leading the campaign in support of this year's [referendum to reform Maine's campaign finance and disclosure laws](#).



## MECEP: New Data Confirm Maine Health Coverage Suffering Due to Current Policy

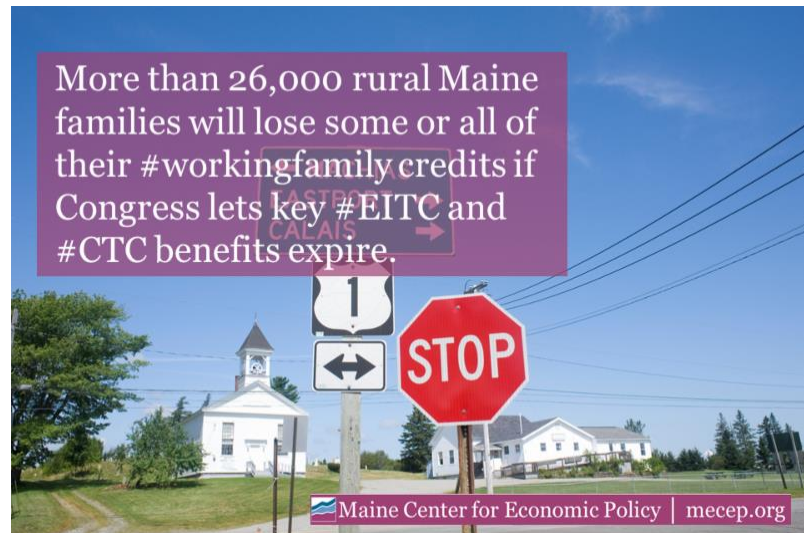
MECEP analysis of new census bureau data revealed that Maine, once among the leading and most successful health policy innovators nationally, is the only state where the percentage of people with health insurance coverage has not increased since passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. The new data shows that Maine, which ranked 10th in the percentage of those with health coverage in 2010, dropped to 24th place in 2014.

Even more troubling, MECEP's analysis revealed that **Maine is the only state where the percentage of children under 18 without health insurance has increased significantly** since 2010 from 4% in 2010 to 6.3% in 2014. **Approximately 5,000 fewer Maine children currently have health insurance coverage than in 2010.**

"The governor's success in cutting access to health care for low-income individuals and parents in his first term and his

continued opposition to accepting federal funds to expand Medicaid make Maine an outlier when it comes to making sure that more people have access to affordable health care," Executive Director Garrett Martin said in a press release announcing MECEP's findings. "This will have lasting effects for the health of Maine people and our economy."

## MECEP Urges Congress to Reauthorize Key EITC/CTC Provisions Due to Expire



If Congress lets the key provisions of the federal earned income tax (EITC) and child tax (CTC) credits expire this year, [37,000 Maine families - including 64,000 children - will lose some or all of their working family tax credits](#). The EITC and CTC promote work and assist low-income families to make ends meet. They lifted 28,000 Mainers, including 14,000 children, out of poverty annually from 2011-2013.

"Research has also found that children in families who get an income boost from the EITC and CTC quickly show improvements in health and school performance, . . . have higher school test scores, on average, and are more likely to go to college and to work and earn more as adults," the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports](#).

"These tax credits reward people who work, they encourage people to invest in long-term financial security for themselves and their families, and by enabling working families to spend more to improve their skills and standard of living, these tax credits strengthen Maine's economy for all of us," MECEP and New Ventures Maine wrote in a September 7th [joint op ed for the Bangor Daily News](#)."

## MECEP Blogposts



A series of recent blog posts examined the benefits Mainers have derived over the half-century since Congress created [Medicare](#) and [Medicaid](#). A blog post on our analysis of new census data on health care coverage in Maine, especially for children, re-ignited concern over the price Maine is paying for refusing to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid.

[USDA reports progress on child hunger, but still a long way to go to eradicate food insecurity for all Mainers and all Americans](#) (October 28, 2015)

[Allowing working family tax credits to expire will make it more difficult for these families to make ends meet](#) (October 22, 2015)

[An agenda to give America's families a much-needed raise](#) (October 15, 2015)

[Health insurance coverage in Maine: Heading in the wrong direction, particularly for children](#) (September 17, 2015)

[Time to turn off Maine's wasteful tax expenditure "faucet"](#) (September 2, 2015)

[Fix the ACA family coverage "glitch"](#) (August 18, 2015)

[Medicaid works in Maine](#) (August 11, 2015)

[Mainers' food security depends upon a stronger, improved SNAP](#) (August 10, 2015)

[New high school equivalency test providing opportunity for hundreds of Mainers](#) (August 6, 2015)

[Medicare: 50 years old and, since health care reform, more fiscally fit](#) (August 4, 2015)

[Happy birthday to Medicaid and to the thousands of children whose lives it has saved](#) (August 3, 2015)

[Medicare at 50](#) (July 30, 2015)

[The day health care in America changed forever](#) (July 29, 2015)

[Department of Defense moves to protect service members and their families from abusive creditors](#) (July 23, 2015)

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## MECEP in the News

Recently, MECEP placed an op ed column in the **Bangor Daily News** about the earned income tax credit and two columns in the **Portland Press Herald** about the raising the minimum wage and on the importance of protecting Social Security and Medicare.



[How Maine could become a speech nanny](#) (**Bangor Daily News**, October 15, 2015)

[Interview about Gov. LePage's proposed income tax cut referendum](#) (WZON-AM, October 1, 2015)

[Advocates: Health Insurance Eligibility for Maine Kids 'Not a Very Clear Process'](#) (MPBN, September 25, 2015)

[Interview about troubling new census data on health insurance coverage in Maine](#) (WZON-AM, September 18, 2015)

[Report: Maine Lags Nation in Health Coverage](#) (MPBN, September 16, 2015)

[Number of uninsured down in every state except Maine](#) (**Bangor Daily News**, September 16, 2015)

[Maine's Council on Aging hosts annual summit](#) (WABI-TV, September 16, 2015)

[Maine Summit on Aging tackles issues facing state as population ages](#) (**Portland Press Herald**, September 15, 2015)

[Maine legislators help working families. Will Congress follow suit?](#) (**Bangor Daily News**, September 7, 2015)

[Interview about tax expenditures accountability](#) (WZON-AM, September 5, 2015)

[Make sure leaders support great gains of Social Security and Medicare](#) (**Portland Press Herald**, September 1, 2015)

[Interview about Social Security and Medicare](#) (WZON-AM, August 20, 2015)

[Interview about MECEP testimony before the National Commission on Hunger](#) (WZON-AM, August 3, 2015)

[Interview about bills to accept federal funds to expand health coverage](#) (WZON-AM, July 31, 2015)

[Workers, families, businesses will all benefit from higher minimum wage](#) (**Portland Press Herald**, July 24, 2015)

[2015 Kids Count shows Maine sinking lower into poverty](#) (WCSH-TV/WLBZ-TV, July 21, 2015)

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**Sincerely,**

Mark Sullivan  
Maine Center for Economic Policy