

MECEP Matters

January 2017

Governor's budget: missed opportunities

Earlier in January, MECEP completed an analysis of the governor's proposed budget and called on legislators to reject it. The governor's plan would give new tax breaks to the wealthy while stripping funding from our schools, shift more costs onto Maine communities while eroding public services we depend on, and increase taxes on low- and middle-income Mainers. In fact, the plan would be a boon for the Top 1% while 80% of Maine families would pay more in taxes.

[Read Our Analysis Here](#)



ACA repeal would be a disaster for Maine

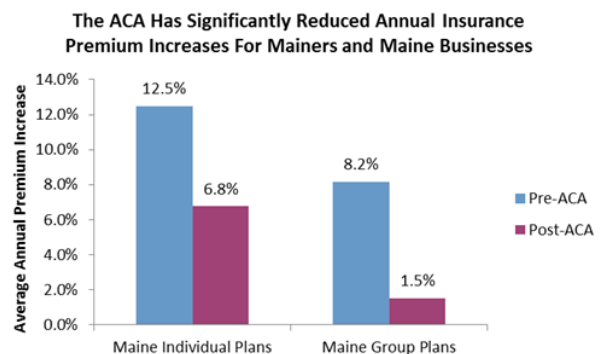
As Congress considers dismantling the Affordable Care Act, MECEP quantified the disastrous harm that repeal would have for Maine families, hospitals, and businesses.



A repeal would cause 95,000 Mainers to lose their health insurance coverage, many of them getting coverage for the first time. It would increase insurance premiums, harming local businesses. It would triple uncompensated care for hospitals and threaten health care jobs in Maine.

Repealing the law without a replacement would roll back lifesaving progress made in the past few years.

[Link to Report](#)



MECEP's Latest Analyses



One in Three: [Number of Mainers over the age of 55 in the ACA Marketplace](#)

\$475 million: [Increase in unpaid charitable care by Maine hospitals with ACA repeal](#)

\$22,665: [Average tax break for the Top 1% under Governor LePage's tax plan](#)

\$60: [Average tax increase for lowest 20% of Maine wage earners under Governor LePage's tax plan](#)

\$30,000: [Average student loan debt for Maine students graduating in 2015](#)



Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity

Garrett Martin recently spoke about Maine's successful referendum campaigns to raise Maine's minimum wage and increase K-12 education funding, as well as Maine's recent success making the state earned income tax credit refundable.



[Webcast Link](#)



MECEP in the News

In case you missed them, MECEP's analyses were used by Maine journalists and bloggers and the radio news to inform public debate:

[Sen. Susan Collins introduces Obamacare alternative](#)

January 23, 2017 | *Lewiston Sun Journal*

[Maine's rural hospitals fear crisis if Obamacare is repealed without comparable replacement](#)

January 22, 2017 | *Maine Sunday Telegram*

[Affordable Care Act repeal would harm Mainers, according to think tank](#)

January 21, 2017 | *Portland Press Herald*

[LePage budget raises taxes for Mainers making less than \\$92,000, gives huge tax cut to top 1%](#)

January 18, 2017 | *Maine Beacon*

[Interview with Garrett Martin about MECEP's analysis of Governor LePage's "upside down" tax plan](#)

January 16, 2017 | *WVOM-AM/FM*

[Interview with Garrett Martin about MECEP's analysis of Governor LePage's two-year budget](#)

January 16, 2017 | *WZON-AM*

[Battle lines form on LePage's tax, welfare proposals](#)

January 16, 2017 | *Bangor Daily News*

[What LePage's tax plan would mean for you](#)

January 15, 2017 | *Maine Sunday Telegram*

[LePage's tax breaks for the wealthy will undermine Maine's economy](#)

January 5, 2017 | *Bangor Daily News*



Read MECEP's Blog



Featured Blog Post

Sarah Austin's January 6 blog marked the day that Maine's new minimum wage law takes effect. Read her analysis of who is expected to receive a raise in 2017.

[More than One in Seven Working Mainers Will Receive Pay Raise Tomorrow](#)



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