



Press Release
Monday, June 26, 2017

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New Report: House and Senate Bills Would Be as Damaging as a Recession, Destroy 10,000 Jobs, Cost 111,000 Mainers Their Health Insurance

(Augusta, Maine) A new report from the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP) finds that the health care bills currently pending in the House and Senate would cost more than 111,000 Mainers their health insurance while damaging the state's economy.

"The efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA)- in both the House earlier this year and this week in the Senate -would have a dramatic impact on Maine people and Maine's economy," said James Myall, a MECEP policy analyst and primary author of the report. "Not only would this legislation take health insurance away from tens of thousands of people, it would shrink our economy by \$1.6 billion and destroy an estimated 10,000 jobs. The promised improvements from a Senate bill do not pan out," he said.

MECEP will hold a briefing call and media availability at 10:30 a.m. today to discuss this new data and answer questions.

Key findings of the report on the impacts of the bills:

- About 111,000 more Mainers would lack health insurance, including 11,000 children, by 2026.
- Most areas of the state would see a double-digit increase in the number of uninsured, with rural areas suffering the greatest impact.
- By 2026, almost one in five non-elderly adults in Maine would be without health insurance.
- Health insurance premiums for older Mainers would skyrocket, increasing as much as 18 times more than current costs.
- Medicaid, which provides health insurance for 263,000 Mainers (including thousands in nursing home care), would face drastic cuts, shifting more than \$2.4 billion in costs to Maine.

- The House and Senate efforts to repeal the ACA would cripple the health care sector, which employs about one in five Mainers, and destroy an estimated 10,000 jobs.
- Business output would decline by \$1.6 billion and the gross state product would be \$1 billion smaller, a 2 percent decline that's larger in real terms than the decline from the recession of 2008-2009.

For a copy of the full report, [click here](#).

Details of media briefing and availability:

Who: Maine Center for Economic Policy

What: Media briefing and availability

When: 10:30 a.m., Monday, June 26

Where: MECEP Office, One Weston Court, Suite 103, Augusta ME

Call-in number: (641) 715-0861

Participation code: 475778#

About the Maine Center for Economic Policy

The Maine Center for Economic Policy is a nonpartisan policy research organization that provides citizens, policymakers, advocates, and media with credible and rigorous economic analysis that advances economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people.

To learn more about what we do, visit www.mecep.org.

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