



**Consumers for  
AFFORDABLE  
Health Care**

*Advocating the right to quality, affordable  
health care for every man, woman and child*

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 27, 2009

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## **FORUM TO LOOK AT WAYS TO REFORM OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

Advisory Council on Health Systems Development Holds Forum as Part of New Health Care Bill

(Augusta)– Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC) is looking forward to seeing what results from a forum Friday, August 28, 2009 at 9:00 AM. The event is being held by the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development (ACHSD) as required by a bill CAHC, our Coalition and partners in the [Maine Voices for Coverage Campaign](#) supported this past session ([LD 1444](#)). The bill gives people more access to information about the quality and cost of their care so that they can make the best choices for themselves and their families on how to spend their hard-earned money. Part of the bill also asks the ACHSD to look into finding better ways health care can be reimbursed so your doctor is supported more to provide you the best care.

“If we can reward doctors and other providers for the quality of their care rather than the current method of rewarding the quantity of patients they see, then multi millions of dollars can be saved in our health care system! Some of those precious dollars can then be used toward insuring those who don't have health coverage and bringing down costs for everyone else,” says CAHC Government Affairs Director, Doug Clopp.

Economists estimate that the nation wastes nearly \$5 BILLION dollars a year on unneeded, ineffective and duplicative care. Often we spend much more on the latest technology that does not help us nearly as much as the trusted, proven, less expensive method of care. We need to figure out how to change that. We're going to attempt to do just that with the ACHSD forum being a starting point.

### **EVENT DETAILS:**

**WHO:** Advisory Council on Health Systems Development and members of the community

**WHAT:** “An Introduction to Payment Reform: Issues and Options”

**WHEN:** August 28th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

**WHERE:** Arnold Howard Room at the Augusta Civic Center

**WHY:** For an important conversation to help the Council meet its statutory obligation to make recommendations to the Legislature about how Maine should advance payment reform of our health care system. The Council must report to the Legislature by January 2010 and is launching its examination of payment reform during its August meeting.

(MORE on Page 2)

**HOW:** Those wishing to attend need to RSVP to 624-7442 or email at [Laurie.E.Halligan@maine.gov](mailto:Laurie.E.Halligan@maine.gov)

**Participants include:**

Sarah Iselin, Commissioner

*Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Massachusetts*

Cathy Schoen, Sr. VP for Research and Evaluation

*The Commonwealth Fund*

David Wennberg, MD, MPH, Chief Science & Products Officer

*Health Dialog*

Jon Blum, Director for Medicare Management & Acting Director

*Center for Drug and Health Plan Choice, CMS*

There will also be a question and answer session so that people in attendance may get some more of the information they need and have their ideas heard.

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**For more information or to schedule interviews contact:**

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