



We all are created in God's image. We all, each of us, possess a basic human dignity. Christian tradition affirms that health care is a basic right flowing from this sanctity and dignity of human life. Millions of Americans continue to go without coverage for health care.

The above quote from MCC Board member, Fr. Richard Senghas, M.D., Roman Catholic priest and medical doctor, sums up the basis of the Maine Council of Churches' stance on healthcare coverage.

As people of faith, we envision a world where everyone receives high quality, affordable, and accessible healthcare...

Health care is a shared responsibility that is grounded in our common humanity. In the bonds of our human family, we are created to be equal. We are guided by a divine will to treat each person with dignity and to live together as an inclusive community. Affirming our commitment to the common good, we acknowledge our enduring responsibility to care for one another. As we recognize that society is whole only when we care for the most vulnerable among us, we are led to discern the human right to health care and wholeness. We are called to act with compassion by sharing our abundant health care resources with everyone.

Health care must contribute to the common good by being affordable for individuals, families and society as a whole. We believe that in the sacred act of creation we are endowed with the talents, wisdom and abundant resources necessary to meet the needs of one another, including the health care needs of all. In our calling to be faithful stewards, we understand our responsibility to use health care resources effectively, to administer them efficiently, and to distribute them equally.

All persons should have access to health services that provide necessary care and contribute to wellness. We believe humanity is sacred and that all persons should benefit from those actions which contribute to our health and wholeness. Therefore, we are called to act with justice and love, to ensure that all of us have access to the health care we need in order to live out the fullness of our potential both as individuals and as contributing members of our society. We must work together to identify and overcome all barriers to and disparities in care.

(Portions of the above are from a statement developed by *Faithful Reform in Healthcare* and endorsed by the Maine Council of Churches.)

Are You Uninsured or Worried about losing MaineCare?

Your story can make a difference.

Maine Equal Justice Partners wants to talk to people who may be able to get or keep their MaineCare if Maine accepts the federal funds already set aside to improve access to health care in Maine. We need to hear from you today if you earn less than 138% of federal poverty guidelines (FPL).

138% of FPL means:

- up to \$15,856 for a single adult
- up to \$21,404 for a couple
- up to of \$26,952 for a family of three

You can help by sharing your story with us:

Call 1-866-626-7059, x 205

or visit **www.covermainenow.com**

Your information and story will not be shared without your permission.

Maine Equal Justice is a member of Cover Maine Now!, a coalition of 85 Maine organizations advocating for accepting these funds to cover nearly 70,000 Maine people who can't afford health insurance. Learn more at covermainenow.com

For more information about Maine Equal Justice Partners visit **www.mejp.org**.

