

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF OBAMACARE ON MAINE BUSINESSES



Joel Allumbaugh, director of the Center for Health Reform Initiatives at MHPC, released three case studies which detail the devastating effects Obamacare would have on three real Maine businesses.

One case study showed the staggering increase in health insurance costs under Obamacare could actually force a retail operation into bankruptcy. The increase could amount to 134% of the company's profit margin.

A second case study from a blueberry farming operation in Maine showed that providing health insurance benefits under Obamacare would result in a crippling annual increase of more than \$184,000.

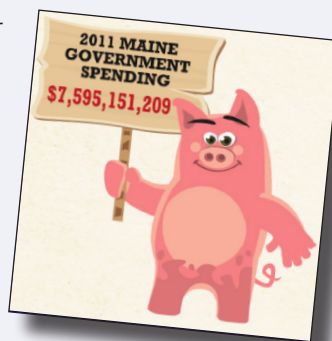
And a third case study from a commercial concrete company showed that providing health insurance benefits under Obamacare would result in an annual increase of almost \$30,000.

"PIGLET BOOK" DETAILS MILLIONS IN WASTEFUL SPENDING

MHPC's 2012 Maine Piglet Book details hundreds of millions of dollars of wasteful government spending.

The Maine Turnpike Authority, the Maine State Housing Authority, "Welfare for Politicians" and stipends given to UMaine employees are just a few of the examples of excessive government spending highlighted in the 2012 Maine Piglet Book.

The Piglet Book reports that the University of Maine alone handed out more than \$10 million in "stipends" in 2011, while the "clean elections" program has expended more than \$23 million over the life of the program, landing several participants in jail.



TAKER-TO-MAKER RATIO RANKS MAINE AS A "DEATH SPIRAL STATE"



Here's a headline seen on forbes.com on Nov. 25: "Do You Live in a Death Spiral State?" Unfortunately for residents of the Pine Tree State, the answer is "yes."

Maine is on the magazine's list of 11 states that are "danger spots for investors," who can look forward to "a rising tax burden, deteriorating state finances and an exodus of employers," according William Baldwin, who covers investment strategies for Forbes.

JIM WARD JOINS MHPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MHPC is pleased to announce James Ward, JD, president and principal of Patient Advocates, has been selected to serve on MHPC's Board of Directors.

Patient Advocates in Gray designs benefit plans for employers; helps employees navigate the health care system; and assists patients to access the finest health care in the country.



MAINE STILL LEADS IN WELFARE DEPENDENCY

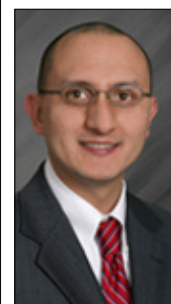
MHPC's newest "Fix the System" report on Maine's welfare system shows that more must be done to move Maine out of welfare dependency.

Maine is the only state in the country to rank in the top 10 of three major areas of welfare: Maine ranks sixth in percent of households receiving food stamps; second in the nation in percent of households receiving cash assistance; and third in the country in percent of population enrolled in Medicaid.

Only California and Vermont have a higher percentage of their populations enrolled in Medicaid.



MHPC BLOG NOW APPEARS IN BANGOR DAILY NEWS



The Bangor Daily News has a new blogger on its online Business page: J. Scott Moody, CEO of MHPC. Moody's

recent posts on the blog include:

- "Happy New Year, Now Pay Your (Higher) Taxes"
- "Fiscal Cliff Solved? Not Without Spending Cuts" and
- "Demographic Winter Tightens Grip on Maine's Economy"

The blog provides MHPC an opportunity to broadcast our message of fiscal responsibility to a wide new audience. Watch for the blog, titled "Moody on Economics," regularly on the BDN website.