



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

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Much at Stake for Maine Women in Health Care Debate

Statement of Sarah Standiford, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Lobby,
September 3, 2009
South Portland, Maine

"I'm delighted to welcome Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to Maine today, to underscore the importance of health care reform to Maine women and to women all across the United States.

"The fact is that the current health care system does not work for women. Women are more vulnerable to high health care costs than men are, and more likely to be underinsured. Particularly in the individual health insurance market, coverage can be cost-prohibitive and, sometimes, totally unavailable. As a result, many women are simply unable to afford the services they need. The frightening consequence is that women go without. In a recent national study by The Commonwealth Fund, more than half of women reported delaying or avoiding needed care because of cost, compared to 39% of men.

"The bottom line is women are paying the price for our failing health care system. Fortunately, the comprehensive health care reform proposals being debated in Congress would go a long way towards making health care accessible and affordable for all women.

"Secretary Sebelius, many of the women here today know the price of our failing health care system. Thank you for inviting us to speak with you, and thank you for your leadership."

The Maine Women's Lobby is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action.

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