



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami

Maine

December 9, 2011

ACTION ALERT—UPDATE

Additional opportunities to be involved in the budget process:

- The Commissioner of DHHS, Mary Mayhew, will present the budget to the Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, December 13, most of the day. If you want to listen in to that testimony and learn more details about the proposals, you can go to the Maine State Legislature's webpage, on the right is a button that says "audio" – and the list of committees will drop down. You can click on Appropriations – and listen in.
- You can go to this site <http://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/cuts> and send a post card to your legislator providing your views on the budget.
- Although the rally is on Wednesday, at 10am, in the Hall of Flags, the Appropriations Committee will be hearing testimony all day on Thursday and again on Friday. If you can't get there Wednesday, you can testify Thursday or Friday.
- There will be a post card table at the Wednesday rally for those who want to fill one out and have it delivered.
- Please use your twitter and face book accounts to publicize the rally and to share information about testimony, post cards, and so on.
- Please let us know if you plan to be there and if you are coming with a group. We are trying to gauge attendance, so letting us know will be helpful.
- Remember that you will be limited to 3 minutes of testimony, so think hard about what you are going to say, and stick to 3 minutes. They will not allow you to go over time – and you will lose effectiveness if you try to. Bring a written copy of your testimony with you – if you can, bring 20 copies. They will want each committee member to have a copy. Let us know if we can help with copying. Finally, your testimony should briefly tell your story and how your story leads you to your opinion on the budget proposal.

Some Talking Points:

- Governor LePage's cuts will affect every family and every community in Maine, putting at risk public health, public safety and the economy.
- The cost of care for families and small businesses will rise as costs are shifted to charity care, and passed on to insurers and hospitals.
- At a time when we should be working to create jobs, these cuts will eliminate thousands of jobs, touching every community in the state.
- Roughly 75 percent of seniors in nursing homes rely on MaineCare. The medical services they depend on, such as Occupational Therapy to help them be able to feed, bathe and get dressed, will be cut.
- Home attendants allow people with disabilities to live at less cost in the community; ending this program will force them into higher cost levels of care.
- Over 6,000 Mainers live in residential settings, many of them are people with mental illness. Closing these residences would force thousands into homeless shelters.

You can find NAMI Maine's statement to the Governor's Supplemental Budget at www.namimaine.org.

Thank you for all of your concern about service delivery and for exercising the rights afforded to us – speaking out about what and how our government operates!

For questions or concerns please contact Carol Carothers at: info@namimaine.org or (207) 622-5767. Thank you for your support!