

Maine People’s Alliance

Adam Zuckerman

Lobbyist

My name is Adam Zuckerman and I am the lobbyist for the Maine People’s Alliance. MPA is Maine’s largest community action organization with over 32,000 members across the state. Our mission is to create a world where everyone has what they need, contributes what they can, and no one is left behind. For decades we have been working to make quality health care more affordable, accessible, and for Mainers regardless of where they come from or how much money they have.

As Mainers for Affordable Health Care (MAHC) identified in [their polling](https://www.mainecahc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Polling-Views-of-Maine-Voters-On-Health-Care-Affordability.pdf), nearly 60% of Mainers with commercial insurance fear they will experience a gap in health coverage because they cannot afford their insurance, over a third of Mainers skipped or delayed going to the doctor when they were sick due to costs, and over a quarter of Mainers cut pills in half, skipped doses of a medication, or delayed or did not fill a prescription due to cost. Anecdotally, our members own personal struggles to access health care undergird MAHC’s findings.

They have also identified many of the solutions that Mainers overwhelmingly supported in MAHC’s polling. Those include:

* Ensuring that all income-eligible Mainers qualify for MaineCare, regardless of immigration status.
* Strengthening and enforcing hospital price transparency rules and putting limits on the prices hospitals can charge.
* Increasing the amount of financial assistance nonprofit hospitals must provide.
* Allowing people to buy into a government-administered health plan, that would be available to all Mainers and would compete with private insurance to lower costs.
* Our members also support efforts to negotiate all prescription drug prices, as well as full universal health care coverage, a policy solution [the 4,000 member Maine Medical Association called for this month](https://themainemonitor.org/maine-medical-association-says-american-healthcare-system-needs-an-overhaul/).

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to responding to any questions that you may have.

Best,

Adam