

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 6 FY 02/03
DATE January 9, 2003

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HEALTH POLICY AND FINANCE**

WHEREAS, health care costs are rising rapidly and challenging Maine's capacity to provide accessible, quality health care; and

WHEREAS, more than one in ten Maine citizens lack health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, health care is a major employer in Maine and a vital health care system is essential to Maine's economic development and our citizens' well being; and

WHEREAS, Maine needs a comprehensive state health plan to assure access, quality and affordability of health care statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance ("Office") as follows:

1. Purpose and Charge

The Office shall:

- a. Serve as a focal point on health policy and assure coherent, collaborative cross agency state health policy.
- b. Serve as a clearinghouse for all state health policy.
- c. Implement the Governor's plan to achieve universal access.
- d. Develop and monitor a state health plan and consolidated budget.
- e. Develop public information about health care issues and possible solutions.
- f. Propose legislation by June 1, 2003 to achieve affordable, quality universal access for all Maine citizens.

2. Functions and Duties

To carry out the foregoing purpose and charge, the Office is administered by a Director and such staff as are necessary and appropriate to carry out its activities. The Director of the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance serves as a member of the Governor's Cabinet and chairs the Cabinet Council on Health, representing all agencies in state government with health-related responsibilities to assure coordinated policy. The Office shall establish the Health Action Group, an advisory committee, to assist in implementation of the Governor's health reform plan. The Director is responsible for securing external funding and administering grants to support the purposes of the office.

Specific activities of the Office shall include but not be limited to: creating an affordable health plan administered by a new, non-profit insurance company; maximizing value purchasing collaboratively among public purchasers of health care; creating a state health plan and revitalized certificate of need program to effectively and equitably allocate health care resources; maximizing Medicaid and other Federal programs; supporting evidence-based medicine and preventive and public health care and building sustainable cost containment and quality improvement strategies.

3. **Health Action Group**

A Health Action Group shall be comprised of no more than thirty members representing providers, business, consumers, government, and other stakeholders. The Health Action Group shall be to advise the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance in implementation of the Governor's health reform plan designed to assure all Maine citizens access to quality, affordable health care.

The Health Action Group shall be chaired by the Director of the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance. Members shall serve without compensation and for a period of one year.

4. **Meetings**

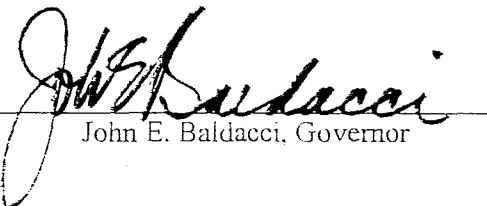
The Health Action Group shall meet at least monthly or as needed at such times and locations specified by the chair. The chair may appoint subcommittees or take such other administrative actions as appropriate to accomplish the work of the Health Action Group.

5. **Resources and Support**

The Executive Department shall provide additional funding and seek additional monies from philanthropic organizations or other sources as necessary to support the work of the Office. The Office may seek external funding and the aid of advisory panels as appropriate.

6. **Effective Date**

The effective date of this Executive Order is January 9, 2003.


John E. Baldacci, Governor