

## LD 896:

# "AN ACT TO PROVIDE YOUNG CHILDREN STABLE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE"

### WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

- LD 896 would ensure that children enrolled in MaineCare at birth would remain covered until their 6th birthday (continuous coverage).

### CONTEXT

- 53.9% of kids under age 6 enrolled in MaineCare
- # of Children enrolled in MaineCare = 40,287
- The number of children under age 5 covered by MaineCare decreased by 7% from 42,101 in 2016 to 39,066 in 2023.

### CONTINUOUS COVERAGE BENEFITS

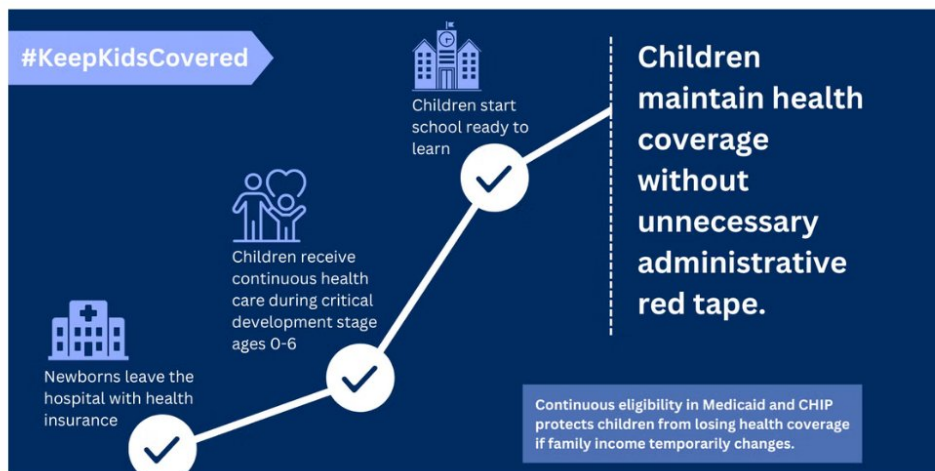
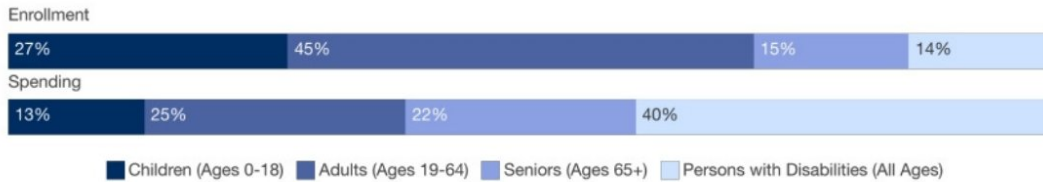
- Prevents gaps in coverage that could jeopardize family stability
- Healthier kids
- Reduced school absenteeism
- Higher academic achievement
- Fewer lost work days and lower medical debt for parents
- Maine saves \$ in the long run



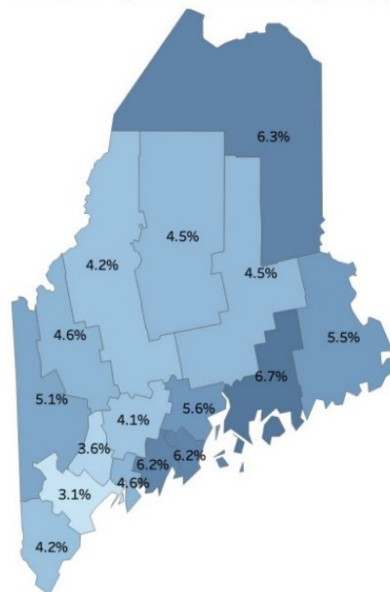
### COST SAVINGS

- Continuous coverage saves \$400 - \$600 in administrative costs per child
- Covering children accounts for just 13% of MaineCare spending
- The annual per-person cost of covering a child 0-6 is less than half the cost for an adult
- Longer coverage periods associated with lower costs per month

## Medicaid Enrollment and Spending by Eligibility Group



In Aroostook, Hancock, Knox, and Lincoln counties, more than 6% children were uninsured, twice the rate of Cumberland County.  
Percent of children under age 19 who are uninsured by county (2022)



Source: [Children under age 19 without health insurance](#) - KIDS COUNT