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The Tide is Rising Against the ‘Dirigo Health’ Plan

Repeal of Health Plan tax will be on the ballot in November

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two days before the deadline of July 17th, with 55,087 signatures needed in order to make the ballot, the Fed Up With Taxes Coalition filed more than 90,000 signatures, a step toward vetoing the “Dirigo” Health tax. With this filed, the people of Maine will be given the opportunity in November to strike down this \$75 million tax hike imposed upon them to fund the “Dirigo” Health Plan.

With already rising fuel and food costs Mainers are being forced to pay more taxes on their health insurance claims and drinks such as their soda pop, beer, and wine, in order to pay for a failing health program. Americans for Tax Reform stands in support of repealing this egregious tax that will be brought before the voters in November.

“At a time when hard working Mainers are struggling to pay their bills, Governor Baldacci and friends decided to pile on the taxes to pay for a failed program. I am glad to see that the people of Maine will have the opportunity to veto their government’s missteps,” Norquist says. “Taxpayers should know that if this tax is repealed their fight is not over, they have to continue with vigilance, understanding that their “leadership” in government will come knocking again asking for a fee or tax of another sort to pay for failed programs.”

“Dirigo Health” was sold to the taxpayers of Maine as a plan that would not require additional taxes, but Maine’s government has gone back on that promise. A plan that was meant to cover 128,000 uninsured residents by 2009, presently is covering only 17,000 people, a mere 13 percent of the coverage that was initially promised. Mainers were told that they would not be taxed to pay for this plan, instead they are facing \$75 million dollars in new taxes.

Norquist continued, “On November 4th voters will be given the opportunity to make right a wrong imposed upon them by their government, I support them as they move to do so.”