

MaineToday.com

Portland Press Herald  
KENNEBEC JOURNAL  
Morning Sentinel  
NEWS 8 WMTW

**Careers**

Featured Employers

Enhance your  
career search  
experience

Press Herald **ONLINE VIEWPOINTS**

HOME • NEWS • SPORTS • BUSINESS • VIEWPOINTS • OBITUARIES • CLASSIFIEDS • SPECIAL REPORTS • PERSONALS • ARCHIVE

#### HOME

#### CLASSIFIEDS

- Careers
- Homes
- Wheels
- Marketplace
- Place an ad
- WebPix

#### NEWS

- Local and state
- Midday/4PM Reports
- In Depth
- Week in Photos

#### WEATHER

- 5-day forecast
- On the Ocean

#### SPORTS

- High schools
- Pirates Cove
- Sea Dogs
- Running

#### BUSINESS

- News
- Resources
- Maine News Direct
- Classifieds
- Business Services

#### ENTERTAINMENT

- Movies
- Dining
- Music
- Theater
- Art

#### CALENDAR

- Southern Maine
- Central Maine

#### TV LISTINGS

- Search your area

#### TRAVEL

- Visiting Maine
- Trip Talk
- Vacation Rentals
- Lodging guide

#### OUTDOORS

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Nature Watching
- More activities
- Campground Guide

#### 20 BELOW

- Teen writing
- Views and reviews

#### CAREERS

- Classifieds
- Advice and info
- Featured employers

#### HOMES

- Classifieds
- Advice and info
- Featured agents

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

[E-mail this story to a friend](#)

EDITORIAL:

## Maine Rx still needs advocates to survive

Copyright © 2003 Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc.

Finally, a chance to do something about rising prescription drug prices.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday said the state could go ahead with Maine Rx, which seeks to negotiate lower drug prices for people who lack prescription coverage. The ruling leaves open the possibility of future lawsuits over parts of the program, but it's a significant victory for the state.

Given the pharmaceutical industry's determination to maintain the status quo with respect to its profits, no one should believe this is the end of the fight. Indeed, Gov. Baldacci and Maine's congressional delegation can expect to play critical roles in seeing Maine Rx through to full implementation.

For the state, that means following the law carefully and preparing itself to defend Maine Rx again in court. The Baldacci administration should be aggressive in pursuing full implementation of the program and should spend what is required to defend the law against further legal challenges.

Should Maine Rx survive to full implementation, it would be a powerful tool to lower drug costs. The state would negotiate for lower prices for the uninsured. Drug makers who refused to bargain would face less favorable treatment under the Medicaid program. Eventually, if drug costs do not fall, the state could implement price controls.

Congress, including Maine's delegation, should brace itself for a lobbying assault from the drug industry if efforts to put down Maine

- Moving to Maine
- Retiring in Maine
- WHEELS**
- Classifieds
- Resources and info
- Featured dealers
- MILESTONES**
- Weddings
- Obituaries
- MARKETPLACE**
- Classifieds
- DIRECTORIES**
- Medical Directory
- Education Guide
- and more
- ADVERTISING**
- Advertising products
- Request a quote
- About Us**
- Help/site guide

Rx in court continue to fail. With several other states poised to follow Maine's lead, Maine Rx is seen by drug makers as a serious threat to profits.

The argument from the drug companies will be that they want a national standard - one that leaves their profits intact. They'll argue, too, that Maine Rx threatens their research spending, and urge Congress to make the program illegal.

Maine Rx does no such thing, of course. It requires the drug makers to negotiate and provide the same discounts to the uninsured that are offered now through private and government insurance programs.

Too many Mainers are having to choose between medicine and food. Maine Rx is a good step toward solving that problem, and Maine's representatives in Washington should fight to keep it legal.



[To top of page](#)



Get an e-mail with the day's headlines each morning.

Your e-mail:

[Signup now](#)

... or visit our [signup page](#) for more information.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Search for events  
by date or topic

Copyright © Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc.