OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 14 FY06/07
DATE May 24, 2006

AN ORDER REGARDING DIRIGO HEALTH REFORM

WHEREAS, Dirigo Health Reform promotes the efforts of the State of Maine to achieve universal health care coverage, improving the affordability and accessibility of all Maine people; and

WHEREAS, health care is a matter of fairness; quality health care must be available to everyone in Maine; and

WHEREAS, DirigoChoice, the subsidized insurance product, is an essential element that is working for Maine families and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Dirigo Health Reform is working for Maine families, achieving $43.7 million in savings in the first year of DirigoChoice and having covered more than 16,000 people in the first 15 months; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to continue the promise of DirigoChoice in achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, we must continue to expand Dirigo so that more Maine working families have health insurance coverage

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the state of Maine, by the authority vested in me, do hereby order the creation of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health:

I. Purpose

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health will make recommendations with respect to long-term funding and cost containment methods to continue the efforts of Dirigo Health in increasing the affordability, accessibility and quality of health care for the people of Maine.

II. Duties

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health shall undertake the following duties:

- Review and make recommendations for alternatives for funding, which may include the savings offset payment, the Dirigo Health Program and subsidies under the program in a fair, equitable and broadly distributed manner.

- Review and make recommendations on methods proven effective in reducing and controlling health care costs and create savings in Maine's health care market, including how such methods may be incorporated in the DirigoChoice health insurance product

III. Responsibilities

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health shall submit a report with recommendations to the Governor by December 15, 2006.

IV. Membership

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Dirigo Health shall consist of no more than fifteen (15) members. The Governor shall appoint the members by June 15, 2006. Members shall include representatives of the Legislature, consumers, labor, business, providers, insurers, Dirigo Health Agency and enrolled businesses and the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is May 24, 2006.

John E. Baldacci, Governor