

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**MAINE COALITION URGES PASSAGE OF  
QUESTION #4 TO FIGHT CANCER AND CREATE JOBS**

***Coalition of leading Maine business groups, health groups and  
elected officials say passage will put Maine on the global map for  
cancer research, and create hundreds of well-paying Maine jobs***

SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE – A coalition of Maine business and health groups, along with state and municipal elected officials, held a press conference in South Portland on Tuesday, October 21 to urge Maine voters to vote ‘yes’ on Question #4 on the ballot November 4. Referendum Question #4 seeks voter approval for \$10 million in bond funds to build a cancer research center in Maine. If the bond is approved, the well-respected and internationally recognized non-profit, The Jackson Laboratory, will submit a proposal to build a state-of-the-art research facility, matching the state’s investment with an additional \$11 million.

“The Maine State Chamber of Commerce fully supports Question #4 and encourages all Maine voters to vote yes on the proposal on November 4,” said Dana Connors, President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. “The Jackson Laboratory has always been a bright spot in Maine’s economy. This is exactly the kind of investment the state of Maine needs to make to not only put Maine on the global map for its work to fight cancer, but to create well-paying jobs with good benefits right here in Maine, and further contribute to the growth of our state’s economy.”

“This type of investment will bring important scientific, health, and economic benefits to Maine,” said Mike Hyde, Vice President of External Relations for The Jackson Laboratory. “It will make the state

a global resource for precision medicine, advance personalized treatments for disease, build on previous state investments, create construction jobs for Maine residents, and bring additional grant money and revenues into the state.”

"A 'yes' vote on Question 4 is a win-win for public health and for our economy," said House Speaker Mark Eves of North Berwick. "As a healthcare professional, I've seen the struggles of patients and families battling cancer. So many of us have experienced this struggle in our own families. In my mind, having Maine be part of the worldwide effort to fight and cure cancer is a no-brainer for that reason alone. But there are also significant economic reasons to support this investment. We can create good-paying jobs in Maine at a time when our state is lagging behind the nation for job growth."

“By voting ‘yes’ on Question 4, Mainers have the opportunity to provide hope for cancer patients and their loved ones who anxiously await new discoveries that could lead to treatments that target their individual disease,” said Hilary Schneider, State Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. “Sustained and robust funding is imperative to allow scientists to maximize the scope of their research and promote progress for the more than 1.6 million Americans and 9,270 Mainers who will be newly diagnosed with cancer this year.”

With the addition of this new research center, the Jackson Laboratory anticipates job growth on the Bar Harbor campus to expand from 1,300 to 1,500 employees, and their economic impact on the state to grow from \$380 million to \$500 million in 5 years.

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**About the Maine State Chamber of Commerce...**

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse network of 5,000 businesses statewide and advocates on behalf of their interests before the Legislature and regulatory agencies and through conferences, seminars, and affiliated programs. Through its OneVoice program and collaboration with local and regional chambers throughout the state, the Maine State Chamber represents thousands of businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Its Grassroots Action Network works to involve members and their employees in the legislative process through outreach campaigns.