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TABOR a nightmare for H

Election 2006: Backers say funding is available for health and social services.

By JOSIE HUANG
Staff Writer

Thousands of low-income Mainers could lose health care coverage, Portland's elderly could be asked to leave the Barron Center and nonprofit organizations that help the state's most vulnerable residents could face major deficits.

That's what health and social service agency officials predict for Maine's health care system if voters approve Question 1 on the Nov. 7 state ballot. Also known as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, the referendum question proposes limits on government spending increases.

"TABOR," said Doug Gardner, director of Portland's Health and Human Service ment, "sounds like it nightmare."

But the initiative's say such alarm is ov TABOR, they say, si to keep state, county spending increases t of inflation plus change.

Worst-case scenario supporters point out, knowledge that residents could not be a bad thing

Wind sends crane cra

9/11 WESCOTT ST. PORTLAND MAINE

TO DEB ANDREWS. (DGA @ PORTLAND MAINE . GOV)

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