



MAINE CAN DO BETTER
Investing in Maine's future together.

Maine Can Do Better
217 Commercial Street,
Portland, ME 04101

April 1, 2010

U.S. Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

The Maine Can Do Better Coalition applauds you for your leadership over the past many months on state fiscal relief and jobs legislation. Your commitment to creating jobs and preserving funding for critical public services has made a positive difference for all Mainers.

In December, just a few months ago, the state budget outlook was bleak. Before us lay a budget proposal that aimed to fill a \$438 million dollar budget gap with deep and harmful spending cuts to health care, education, family supports, local communities and many other valuable public structures upon which all Maine people rely.

Such proposed cuts meant undermining our economy, our communities, our families and leaving us a legacy of deferred costs for many years to come.

Tuesday, in sharp contrast to activity in many states, a bipartisan supermajority in the Maine Legislature enacted a supplemental budget for 2010 and 2011.

Thanks to your hard work and support, Maine was able to avoid a great many damaging budget cuts in the current biennium. The "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" (ARRA) directly provided \$550 million in enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), education and fiscal stabilization funds to balance the biennial budget last year. This year, ARRA and the pending "American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010," together will directly infuse \$114 million in new revenues into the supplemental state budget. Your support of extending FMAP came at a critically important time. Indirectly, another \$51 million in state revenue re-projections is, according to Maine's Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission, due in part to the positive impact of ARRA on Maine's economy.

Together, these resources were directed by Governor Baldacci and the Legislature to make budget restorations vital to every Mainer. These new revenues will assist in keeping Maine people healthy, prepare Maine's workforce, support local communities, create and preserve jobs, and serve as a vital and necessary investment in Maine's future.

Again, the Maine Can Do Better Coalition applauds you and the Obama Administration for your leadership. Your support of the state fiscal relief, jobs bills and federal stimulus packages clearly demonstrates a deep commitment to the people of Maine. We hope that you will continue to support similar measures to help Maine fully rebound and recover the more than 30,000 jobs lost between the start of the recession and December 2009.

Thank you.

Benjamin Dudley
On behalf of The Maine Can Do Better Coalition

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The Maine Can Do Better Coalition includes:

AARP
Abused Women's Advocacy Project
ACCESS Public Policy
Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine
Advocacy Initiative Network of Maine
Alpha One
American Heart Association
American Federation of Teachers, Local 4593
American Stroke Association Founders Affiliate
Amicus
Autism Society of Maine
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter
Battered Women's Project
Behavioral Health Community Collaborative
Black Rock Center for Psychotrauma
Broadreach Family & Community Services
Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition
Caring Unlimited
Central Aroostook ARC
Central Maine Labor Council
Charlotte White Center
Child Care Services of York County
Child and Family Opportunities
Children's Advocacy Council
Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI)
Coastal Workshop
Community Care
Community Concepts, Inc.
Community Counseling Center
Community Health and Counseling Services
Community Housing of Maine
Community Partners, Inc.
Community Rehabilitation Services
Consumer Advisory Board
Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Counseling Services, Inc.
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners
Cumberland County Domestic Violence Intervention Partnership
Direct Care Alliance
Disability Rights Center of Maine
Downeast Horizons
Elmhurst, Inc.
Empower Lewiston
Engage Maine
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Family Crisis Services
Family Planning Association of Maine
Family Violence Project
Foster Family-based Treatment Association - ME Chapter
Friends of the Fund for a Healthy Maine
Friends Together Peer Support and Recovery Center
G.E.A.R. Parent Network
Food AND Medicine
Health Policy Partners of Maine
Eastern Maine Labor Council
Toxics Action Center Campaigns
HealthWays/Regional Medical Center at Lubec, Inc.
Healthy Acadia Coalition
Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine
Homeless Voices for Justice
Hope Haven Gospel Mission
Hospitality House, Inc.
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Iris Network
Justice Committee of the Sisters of Mercy in Maine
Kennebec Behavioral Health
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
Kennebec Valley Organization
LCLAA-Maine
League of Young Voters
LEAP, Inc.
Legal Services for the Elderly
Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
Maine Affordable Rental Housing Coalition
Maine AFL-CIO
Maine AIDS Alliance
Maine Alliance for Addiction Recovery
Maine Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse
Maine Association for Community Service Providers
Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods
Maine Association of Mental Health Services
Maine Association of Peer Support & Recovery Centers
Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians
Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Choice Coalition
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Maine Coalition on Smoking or Health
Maine Community Action Association
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Senior Citizens
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
Maine Education Association
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Maine Head Start Director's Association
Maine Mental Health Connections
Maine Parent Federation
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Primary Care Association
Maine State Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989
Maine Transition Network
Maine Women's Fund
Maine Women's Lobby
Mainly Kidz PT
Mid Maine Regional Transition Board
Motivational Services, Inc.
Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization
NAACP Portland Branch
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Maine
National Association of Social Workers Maine Chapter
New Beginnings
New Hope for Women
NFI North

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Northeast Occupational Exchange
OHI
Partners in Ending Hunger
Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine
Penquis Sagadahoc County Working Group on Family Violence
People's Regional Opportunity Program
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Penobscot Valley Industries
Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights
Possibilities Counseling Services
Preble Street
Providence Service Corporation of Maine
Rape Crisis Assistance and Prevention
Rape Education and Crisis Hotline
Rape Response Services
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland
Sagadahoc County Working Group on Family Violence
Serenity House
Sexual Assault Crisis Center
Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center
Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine
Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine
Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services
Shalom House
Social Learning Center of Tri-County Mental Health Services
Speaking Up for Us
Special Children's Friends
Spruce Run
The Children's Center
The Community School
The Nezinscot Guild
The Northern Lighthouse
The Progress Center Inc.
The Universal Healing Center
Toxics Action Center
Transitions Counseling, Inc.
Washington County Children's Program

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