



*Department of Health
and Human Services*

*Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives*

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services
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Dear Office Director:

Today, Governor Baldacci unveiled his proposed supplemental budget, which addresses a \$438 million revenue gap.

At DHHS, a net of \$91.5 million in reductions is included in the proposal. Reductions have been made in nearly all budget areas, including our workforce. Thank you again for your work over the last several months in this difficult exercise.

DHHS budget reductions represent less than 25 percent of the challenge the Governor is facing. It's important to recognize while these reductions are difficult and increasingly challenging, the Governor's choices reflect a continued commitment to education, preserving jobs and helping citizens who are struggling.

Rather than wholesale elimination of programs, reductions have been made in the quantity of service and reimbursement rates. These decisions have been painful and we recognize that implementation of these proposals will be difficult for the people who receive services, providers and advocates.

I am certain that you have anticipated questions and it is important that we answer those questions with one voice. Today, you should direct constituents to the budget document, which can be found at www.maine.gov/budget.

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Harvey
Commissioner

BMH/klv