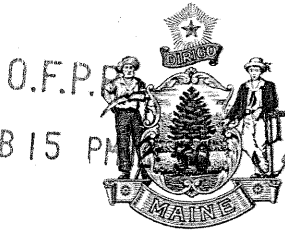


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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 15, 2008

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Representative Jeremy Fischer, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Re: Supplemental Budget (LD 2173)

Dear Senator Rotundo and Representative Fischer:

In response to your letter of February 5, 2008, we want to provide you with a report on our progress at work sessions on the Supplemental Budget (LD 2173). In addition to the public hearings, we met 4 times to consider and work on the budget. While we've made considerable progress, we still lack key information to make final decisions.

On January 24th, we received a budget orientation from Commissioner Harvey and then we discussed budget priorities among the HHS Committee members. Mindful of your aggressive timetable, we held our first work session on February 5th and began our review of the budget line items that had been heard in Appropriations the previous Friday. We continued our work sessions this week, meeting on February 12th and 14th. We were hopeful that we would have a proposal this week from the Department of Health and Human Services on the additional \$33,816,108 target for budget cuts. Unfortunately, we do not have that information and cannot make further progress without it. Therefore, we will not be reporting on the scheduled dates of February 20th and 21st.

We respectfully request that you provide another time for us to report back after the information on the new cuts has been presented publicly and we hold the appropriate work sessions needed to complete this important task.

Sincerely,

Senator Joseph Brannigan
Senate Chair

Representative Anne Perry
House Chair

c: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services