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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 9, 2008

To: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Jeremy R. Fischer, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Joseph C. Brannigan, Senate Chair
Anne C. Perry, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Priorities for Bills on the Appropriations Table

We are pleased to provide to the Appropriations Committee the priorities of the Health and Human Services Committee for bills on the Appropriations Table. Please note that additional bills are expected on the Appropriations Table during this session that are supported by the HHS Committee, including LD 2311, An Act to Invest in Maine's Children, which has just been printed. We trust that you will give consideration to those bills that arrive on the table after today's deadline for submitting our priorities.

Priorities for funding bills on the Appropriations Table:

1. LD 2063, Resolve, To Preserve Access to Assisted Living Services for Maine's Elderly and Disabled Citizens, sponsored by Representative James Campbell, Sr.
2. LD 2242, An Act to Fund the Universal Childhood Immunization Program, sponsored by Representative Gary Connor.
3. LD 1567, Resolve, To Demonstrate Cost Savings by Preventing the Onset of Severe Mental Illness in Youth, sponsored by Representative Jane Eberle.

c: Members, Health and Human Services Committee

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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 11, 2008

To: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Jeremy R. Fischer, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Joseph C. Brannigan, Senate Chair
Anne C. Perry, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Priorities for Bills on the Appropriations Table, General Fund and
Fund for a Healthy Maine

In response to your request dated April 9, 2008, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services met this morning to review bills on the Appropriations Table. Below we have listed our priorities for bills on the Appropriations Table for the General Fund and the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

First, we ask that you take off the Appropriations Table, LD 2301, An Act to Amend the Certificate of Need Act of 2002 as it does not affect funding this biennium. Without its passage, the Department of Health and Human Services will not be able to approve on an emergency basis upcoming nursing facility Certificate of Need applications that are necessary to achieve compliance with building code and regulatory requirements, HIPAA privacy standards and other time sensitive patient safety and compliance issues.

Priorities for funding bills on the Appropriations Table – General Fund:

1. LD 2063, Resolve, To Preserve Access to Assisted Living Services for Maine's Elderly and Disabled Citizens, sponsored by Representative James Campbell, Sr.
2. LD 1567, Resolve, To Demonstrate Cost Savings by Preventing the Onset of Severe Mental Illness in Youth, sponsored by Representative Jane Eberle.

3. LD 519, An Act to Provide Assistance to Family Members, Friends and Neighbors Who Provide Home Health Care for Senior Citizens, sponsored by Representative James Campbell, Sr.

Priorities for funding bills using a Fund for a Healthy Maine:

Majority Report on Fund for a Healthy Maine

Six members of the Health and Human Services Committee recommended partial funding for all 3 bills identified for Fund for a Healthy Maine as follow:

1. LD 2098, An Act to Prevent and Treat Cancer in Maine by Providing a Source of Funding for a Comprehensive Cancer Prevention Program, sponsored by Representative Meredith Strang Burgess. (\$1.7 million)

2. LD 2242, An Act to Fund the Universal Childhood Immunization Program, sponsored by Representative Gary Connor. (\$1.3 million)

3. LD 2311, An Act to Invest in Maine's Young Children, which is a Committee bill resulting from a legislative study. (\$0.4 million)

Minority Report on Fund for a Healthy Maine

Five members of the Health and Human Services Committee agreed with funding for LD 2098 and LD 2242 in the amounts recommended by the majority. However, while supporting the concept of LD 2311, An Act to Invest in Maine's Young Children, these members could not support using the Fund for a Healthy Maine at this time to start a brand new program when so many of the existing services that Maine people rely on have been cut. These HHS members recommend that any balance that remains after funding the Committee's top two priority be used for health purposes pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. § 1551, sub-§6 and, in particular, to restore cuts made to programs for the elderly and to mental health programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

c: Members, Health and Human Services Committee