



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

1 February 2013

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Michaud
United States House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
United States House of Representatives
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

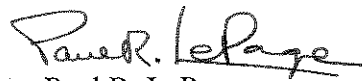
Dear Senators Collins and King and Representatives Michaud and Pingree:

I write today to ensure you understand my views when it comes to new federal legislation concerning firearms. Quite simply, the problem we face has little to do with firearm ownership and nearly everything to do with mental health issues. More gun laws will be ineffective when necessary services are not being provided.

That is why my most recent budget proposes to increase funding and provides services to mentally ill people. This includes \$6.7 million for adults with developmental disabilities that will reduce our waitlist by 85 individuals. We have also added another \$2 million for services under a consent decree dealing with mental health throughout the State. I am confident these initiatives will mean much more to the individuals receiving these services – and will provide more public safety – than simply enacting unnecessary gun laws.

You have all worked in Augusta, and you know how strongly the Maine State Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms. Maine people have a long history and tradition of responsible gun ownership. I encourage you all to remember the words “this right shall never be questioned” adopted by the voters not long ago. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER