

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments.

Growing our economy by encouraging job creation remains a top priority. The tax relief bill enacted during this last Congress contains provisions I authored to provide small businesses with the certainty that they need to invest, grow, and, most important, hire new workers. The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act includes a provision the Maine delegation worked together to champion requiring that military recruits be provided with athletic footwear made in America, as is required for other equipment and uniform items whenever possible. This is a great victory for our troops and for the 900 skilled workers at New Balance factories here in Maine.

Maine's contributions to our national security stretch from Kittery to Limestone. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I successfully advocated for critical funding for projects at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and \$1 billion towards the construction of an additional ship that will likely be built at Bath Iron Works. This funding will strengthen the Navy and our national security, and the additional destroyer will help meet the Navy's goal of a 355-ship fleet.

Maine's growing population of older individuals creates many challenges. That's why, as Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, my top three priorities are fighting fraud and financial abuse directed at our nation's seniors, increasing investments in biomedical research, and improving retirement security.

The Aging Committee's toll-free hotline (1-855-303-9470) makes it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance. Last May, a call to the hotline helped lead to the arrest of a national crime ring targeting seniors, and in June I worked to secure the humanitarian release of a Maine senior who had been imprisoned in Spain after being victimized by an international drug smuggling scam.

The Aging Committee also released an extensive report detailing the findings of our bipartisan investigation into the abrupt and dramatic price increases for prescription drugs whose patents expired long ago.

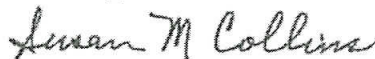
I advocated strongly for the \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health to advance research on such diseases as diabetes and Alzheimer's. I also championed and authored portions of the 21st Century Cures Act that will further support biomedical innovation and make significant reforms to our mental health system.

The Senate also took steps in the past year to combat the nation's heroin and opioid epidemic by passing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which I was proud to cosponsor. CARA is a monumental step forward in our effort to address the devastating addiction crisis affecting countless families and communities across the country and right here in Maine.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. In December 2016, I cast my 6,236th consecutive vote, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Waterford and Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact my Lewiston state office at 207-784-6969 or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov. May 2017 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator