

Dear Friends of Waterford,

Since being sworn into the Senate in 2013, I have made it my mission to address at the federal level the most important issues facing our great state. Working closely with my colleagues in the Maine Congressional Delegation, we've been able to successfully secure a number of legislative victories that support our state's economy, our rich traditions, and the hardworking people I am proud to represent.

In an increasingly polarized Congress, my goal as an Independent is to put partisanship aside, build consensus and further common-sense solutions to address the needs of the American people. To this end, I have co-founded the Former Governors Caucus, a group of former state executives who are frustrated with legislative gridlock and eager to find bipartisan solutions. And as always, I aim to bridge the partisan divide by hosting barbeque dinners in Washington with colleagues ranging from Ted Cruz to Elizabeth Warren. If you know a person's children, then you see them as a mother or father and not a rival vote, and working to further personal dialogue and build relationships can lay the foundation for successful legislation.

One of the accomplishments of which I am most proud is the legislative victory that protects our college students and their families from an expensive hike in student loan interest rates. In 2013, as students faced a significant spike in interest rates that would have taken thousands of dollars out of their pockets, I brought together colleagues from across the political spectrum to broker compromise legislation called the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act. Thanks to this bill, students will save \$50 billion over the next 10 years by lowering their interest rates, which means that a student in Maine will now save between \$3,000 and \$6,000 over the life of their loan.

Being an Independent in the Senate has allowed me to make calls and vote on policies that are best for Maine, but it has also made it possible to play key roles in finding simple solutions and legislative fixes that make good commonsense to both parties. Of course, much of what we do in the Senate doesn't happen on the Senate floor, or even in committee. Instead, it involves working across all levels of government to ensure the State of Maine receives attention and support from the federal government.

Take, for example, the opioid and heroin epidemic devastating communities across our state. While Congress has passed legislative solutions aimed at expanding access to medical treatment, I've also pressed for other changes that can be accomplished more quickly and make a more immediate difference in Maine. For example, I successfully urged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to increase the number of patients to whom a doctor can provide medication-assisted treatment, and in 2015 brought the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to Brewer to meet directly with Mainers and hear their stories. I've also engaged law enforcement – including the Drug Enforcement Agency – to crack down on the production of opioids and work to limit their diversion. Together, Senator Collins and I helped pass the Northern Border Security Review Act to combat drug and human trafficking along our border with Canada.

While the opioid epidemic is certainly our biggest public health crisis, job loss in Maine is still our number one economic problem and that's why we need to focus on bringing good paying jobs back to Maine and protecting the ones we still have. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I teamed up with Senator Collins and Representative Poliquin to successfully secure a provision in the defense bill that can help domestic shoe manufacturers like New Balance. The three of us also worked together with the Department of Commerce to establish an Economic Development Assessment Team, known as an EDAT, to assist Maine's forest industry in the wake of several mill closures. We have an incredible spirit of innovation and ingenuity in Maine and I believe finding ways to invest in that spirit will reignite Maine's forest products sector and our economy. Part of our economic path forward must also include expanding access to high-speed broadband, which can help connect our businesses and communities to information and economic opportunities.

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COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
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As a member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I work to keep Maine and our nation safe. Part of that important work means continuing to work for funding for the construction of Navy ships that will be used to protect American interests across the globe. We all know that "Bath Built is Best Built," which is why I've fought to authorize funding for Navy ships built at BIW. The best way to preserve peace is by deterring war through unassailable strength, and to do that we must support our shipbuilders and our brave service members and invest in our military. I strive to meet this solemn responsibility every day as a member of these committees, which is why I hardly ever miss a hearing and take great care in overseeing the agencies sworn to keep us safe. Armed Services Chairman John McCain called me "one of the most serious and hard-working members" of the Committee, and that's a humbling compliment from a true American hero.

As always, please call or write me with thoughts or concerns with matters currently before Congress, or if you need assistance navigating a federal agency. As a public servant, it is critical to me to listen and learn from you, which is why staying connected with people from all over our beautiful state remains a top priority for my work in the Senate. Please call my toll-free line at 1-800-432-1599 or one my offices: Augusta: (207)622-8292, Bangor: (207)945-8000, Presque Isle (207)764-5124, Scarborough (207)883-1588, or Washington, D.C. (202)224-5344. You can also write me on our website at www.king.senate.gov/contact.

It is an honor and a privilege serving the people of Maine in the Senate, and I look forward to working with you in our search for a more perfect Union.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

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