



December 2018

Dear Representative/Senator/Governor-Elect,

Congratulations on your election. As you work together with your colleagues to put Maine on a path to future economic stability and prosperity, we hope you will keep in mind that some of the best investments Maine can make are the ones that have proven high returns down the road.

Today we are writing as members of ReadyNation, a nonprofit organization that includes more than 100 Maine business leaders committed to working to strengthen businesses across our state and our economy through proven investments focused on Maine's youngest children.

We all know that we want Maine's future to be in good hands. To ensure our future prosperity, we need to develop a strong bench – a generation of young people who can lead our businesses and our communities while growing our economy.

Today, 73 percent of all Maine children under age six have all available parents or guardians in the workforce. To support them, Maine should incentivize more high-quality child care in all areas of the state so that parents can go to work with the peace of mind about their child/children's care.

In addition to high-quality child care, we hope you will also join us in making a commitment to provide early care and education that is accessible and of high quality for Maine's three core early care and education programs: public preschool, Head Start, and home visiting.

We know that high-quality early learning programs can be very beneficial in improving academic performance and educational achievement. The programs also help students develop the skills they'll need to move on to higher education and, later, to thrive in a competitive workforce. Over the long haul, each child served in high-quality pre-K can save society a net \$34,000 on average, thanks to reduced crime, less grade repetition, less need for special education, higher high-school graduation rates, and greater future earnings.

Moreover, every dollar invested in early care and education in Maine generates an additional 78 cents over and above our initial investment. In other words, putting a dollar into an early learning program injects \$1.78 into our economy.

This is the kind of solid investment that appeals to us both as businesspeople and as Mainers who care about the future of our state.

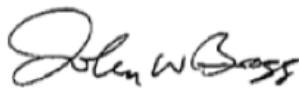
We encourage you to work in a bipartisan fashion to expand access to and affordability of high-quality early learning programs during the 129th Legislative Session.

For your information and review, please find the enclosed brief that provides a very high-level overview of the current profile of Maine's children. Thank you for your service to our great state.

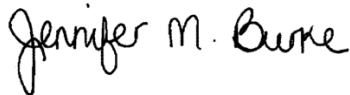
Sincerely,



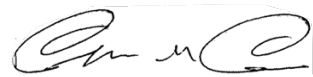
Newell A. Augur
Owner
Augur & Associates
Augusta



John W. Bragg
Chairman of the Board, (Ret.)
N.H. Bragg and Sons
Bangor



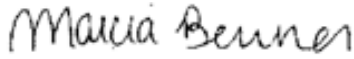
Jennifer M. Burke
President
Jen Burke Strategies, Inc.
Biddeford



Christopher M. Cimino
Executive Vice President
C.M. Cimino, Inc.
Westbrook



Deborah A. Deatruck, MPH
Vice President, Community
Health
MaineHealth
Portland



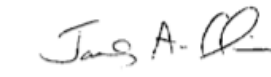
Marcia Benner
VP, Human Resources Officer
Damariscotta Bank & Trust
Company
Damariscotta



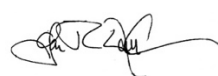
Michael Brannigan
Sr. Underwriting Consultant
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
South Portland



Lucas W. Caron
Consultant/CEO
Woodcrest Consulting, LLC
South Portland



James A. Clair
CEO
Goold Health Systems
Augusta



Jon R. Doyle
Senior Partner
Law Office of Doyle & Nelson
Augusta



Dan Bookham
Director of Business Development
Allen Insurance and Financial
Camden



Meredith Strang Burgess
CEO
Burgess Advertising and Marketing
Portland



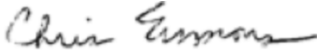
William L. Caron
President & CEO
Mainhealth
Portland



Dana F. Connors
President
Maine State of Commerce
Augusta



Nelson Durgin
Executive Director, (Ret.)
Phillips-Strickland House
Corporation
Bangor



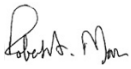
Chris Emmons
President & CEO
Gorham Savings Bank
Gorham



Martin Grohman
President
HelloCycle, Inc.
Biddeford



Laurie Lachance
President
Spillers
Lewiston



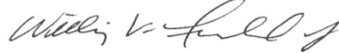
Robert A. Moore
Former CEO/Chairman
Dead River Company
South Portland



Jackson Parker
President & CEO
Reed & Reed, Inc.
Woolwich



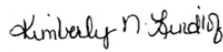
Steve Rich
President & CEO
Stephen Rich | Architecture
Glenburn



William Ferdinand Jr.
Attorney
Eaton Peabody
Augusta



Jonathan Hiltz
Financial Planner
Baystate Financial Services
Falmouth



Kimberly N. Lindlof
President & CEO
Mid-Maine Chamber of
Commerce
Waterville



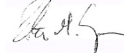
Charles "Chip" Morrison
President, (Ret.)
Androscoggin County Chamber
of Commerce
Lewiston



John Peters
President, (Ret.)
Downeast Energy Corp.
Harswell



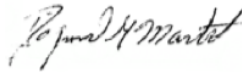
Steven G. Rowe
CEO
Maine Community Foundation
Portland




Peter M. Gore
Vice President, Government Affairs
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Augusta



Connie Justice
President
Planson International Corporation
New Gloucester



Raymond G. Martel
President
Spillers
Lewiston



Steve Musica
President & CEO
Lean East
Brunswick



Steven Mark Pound
Retired business leader
Greenville



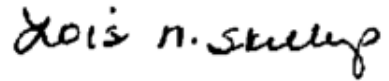
Megan Sanborn
Senior Government Affairs
Specialist
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Augusta



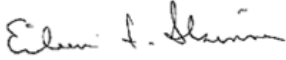
Michael Saxl
Managing Principle
Maine St Solutions
Augusta



Larry Shaw
President & CEO
MMG Insurance Company
Presque Isle



Lois N. Skillings
President & CEO
MidCoast Health Services
Brunswick



Eileen F. Skinner
Administrator
Shriners Hospitals for Children
Portland



Richard L. Stanley
President
Sanford Springvale Chamber of
Commerce
Sanford



Elizabeth Timm
President, (Ret.)
Bank of America, Maine
Falmouth



Dan Tremble
Owner
Fairmount Market
Bangor



Fred Webber
Chairman
Maine State Workforce
Investment Board
Standish



Jen Webber
Communications & Advocacy
Consultant
Webber Consulting
Buxton



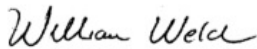
Susan Weems
Owner
Green Bounty



Tyson Weems
Founder and Chief Actionator
3D Health Alliance



Steven Weems
Managing Director
Polaris Associates
Brunswick



William Welch
Owner
Pedro O'Hara's
Lewiston



C. Shawn Yardley
CEO
Community Concepts
Lewiston