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COMMITTEES:
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
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HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

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 from this past year.

As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I worked to help ensure the well-being of our seniors. The *SeniorSafe Act I* authored became law last year and is empowering banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions to better protect seniors from financial fraud.

Following extensive committee investigations of prescription drug pricing, additional legislation I crafted became law, ending the egregious practice of pharmacy “gag clauses” that prevented pharmacists from informing patients on how to pay the lowest possible price.

This year, I was also successful in securing an extra \$425 million for Alzheimer’s research—the largest funding increase ever—bringing the total to \$2.34 billion. Additionally, the bipartisan *BOLD Act I* authored will create public health infrastructure to combat Alzheimer’s by promoting education, early diagnosis, and improved care management.

More than 40 million Americans—including 178,000 Mainers—are caregivers for parents, spouses, children, and other loved ones with disabilities or illnesses, such as Alzheimer’s. The *RAISE Family Caregivers Act I* authored was signed into law last year, giving caregivers more resources and training to better balance the full-time job of caregiving. Another law I wrote will help grandparents who are raising grandchildren, largely due to the opioid addiction crisis.

In addition to helping seniors, a major accomplishment over the past year is the increased federal investment in biomedical research that is leading to progress in the fight against numerous devastating diseases. Congress has boosted funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$7 billion in just the last three years, bringing total funding to more than \$39 billion.

One of my highest priorities as Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee is to improve our nation’s crumbling infrastructure and ensure that Maine’s needs are addressed. Since the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants program, formerly known as TIGER, was established in 2009, I have secured \$160 million for vital transportation projects throughout Maine.

Congress also delivered a Farm Bill last year, which includes many important provisions that will help the agriculture industry in Maine and across the country. Specifically, I secured provisions that will strengthen support for young farmers, improve local farm-to-market efforts, and increase funding for organic research.


Congress took decisive action to address the opioid addiction epidemic. In addition to appropriating \$8.5 billion in federal funding last year, Congress enacted the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act*, a comprehensive package that embraces the multipronged approach I have long advocated for this epidemic: prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement to stop drug trafficking.

Maine plays a key role in ensuring a strong national defense. In 2018, Congress provided funding for five ships to be built at Bath Iron Works, which will help to keep our nation safe and provide our skilled shipbuilders a steady job. I also secured more than \$162 million for infrastructure projects at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to support their important work to overhaul Navy submarines.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. In December 2018, I cast my 6,834th 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 Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov. May 2019 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator