FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA
MAINE

December 2018

Dear Representative/Senator/Governor-Elect,

Please accept our collective congratulations on being chosen by your fellow Mainers to be their voice in state government. There is little doubt that these next two years will be exciting ones as you and your colleagues work to forge a path forward for all of Maine. As you do this important work, we hope you will keep in mind that the strength and safety of our communities in the future are often grounded in the priorities and investments that you will be making during the 129th Legislature.

We are writing as members of the anti-crime organization Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, a nonprofit organization including more than 140 law enforcement leaders in Maine, who know from our experience on the front lines that research-based investments in kids help prevent later crime and make our communities safer. In addition, research shows that these investments can substantially save in corrections and other law enforcement costs over time. We are writing today to ask you to keep our youngest Mainers top of mind in your legislative work.

We hope you will join us in our collective commitment to provide high-quality early care and education that is accessible to all of Maine's youngest children, birth to age 8, no matter what county they live in. This includes strengthening three of Maine's core early care and education programs: public preschool, Head Start and home visiting, as well as incentivizing more high-quality child care for working parents all across our state.

We offer an unexpected perspective on high-quality early learning – its impact on crime. Research clearly shows high-quality early care and education for at-risk kids not only can reduce their likelihood of committing a crime later in life, but also provides far greater savings than their cost. For example, a study of Chicago's Child-Parent Centers—government-funded early education programs that have served 100,000 three-and four-year-olds—found that at-risk kids left out of the program were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18 than kids who participated. At-risk kids left out of another high-quality program, the High/Scope Perry Preschool, were five times more likely to be chronic offenders with five or more arrests by age 27. These programs also save money. The High/Scope Perry preschool program cut crime and other costs so much that it saved taxpayers $16 for every $1 invested, while the Child Parent Centers program saved more than $10 for every $1 spent – with crime reduction costs being a big part of the savings.

We recognize that available funding is limited, and we know that there are many competing demands for resources. However, we are currently paying – in staggering criminal justice costs alone – for the previous inability to prioritize investments in evidence-based approaches that give our kids, at the youngest stages of development, the ability to become contributing members of society, rather than a huge drain on public coffers if they drop out of school and move towards crime. As law enforcement leaders we have watched too many kids grow up to become criminals. We urge you to prioritize these investments shown by research to give kids the right start in life and help keep them on track while saving taxpayers money.

4 Jersey Circle / Topsham, ME 04086 / 207.725.5946

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

MAINE

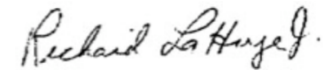
For your information and review, enclosed is our new Maine brief *"We Are the Ones You Pay Later."*

We hope we can count on you to make high-quality early learning a priority during the 129th Legislature.

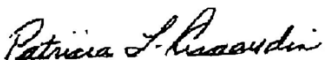
Thank you for your service to our great state.



Kevin J. Joyce
President, Maine Sheriffs Association
Sheriff, Cumberland County



Richard H LaHaye Jr.
President, Maine Chiefs of Police Association
Chief of Police, Searsport



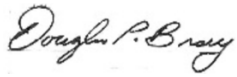
Patricia L. Arnaudin
Chief of Police
Ogunquit



Bruce Boucher
former Chief of Police
Rockland



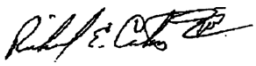
Todd B. Brackett
Sheriff
Lincoln County



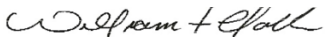
Douglas P Bracy
Chief of Police
York



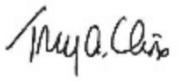
Tim Carroll
Sheriff-Elect
Knox County



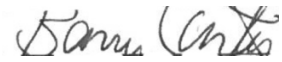
Richard E. Caton IV
Chief of Police
Jay



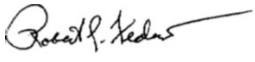
William Clark
Former Sheriff
Hancock County



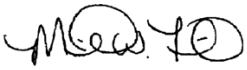
Troy A. Cline
Chief of Police
Buxton



Barry Curtis
Sheriff
Washington County



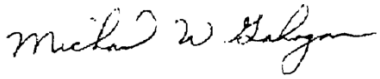
Robert J. Federico
Chief of Police
Norway



Michael W. Field
Chief of Police
Bath



Naldo S. Gagnon
Deputy Chief
Cumberland County



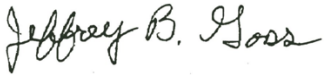
Michael W Gahagan
Chief of Police
Caribou



Sean P. Geagan
Chief of Police
Bucksport



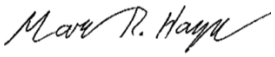
Shawn Gillen
Sheriff-Elect
Aroostook County



Jeffrey B Goss
Chief of Police
Mechanic

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

MAINE



Marc Hagan
Lisbon Chief of Police



Steven R. Kenyon
Chief of Police
Millinocket



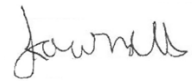
Mary-Anne LaMarre
Executive Director
Maine Sheriffs Association



Christopher A. Lewis
Chief of Police
Topsham



Ken Mason
Sheriff
Kennebec County



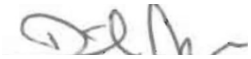
Jared Mills
Chief of Police
Augusta



Brian O'Malley
Chief of Police
Lewiston



Eric Nason
Chief of Police
Hallowell



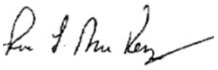
Daniel Jones
Chief of Police
Gorham



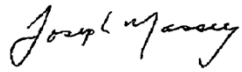
William L. King
Sheriff
York County



Dale P. Lancaster
Sheriff
Somerset County



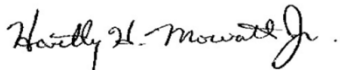
Robert F. MacKenzie
Chief of Police
Kennebunk



Joseph C. Massey
Chief of Police
Waterville



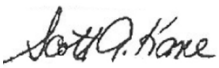
Jason Moen
Acting Chief of Police
Auburn



Hartley "Skip" Mowatt
Chief of Police
Paris



Scott Nichols
Sheriff
Franklin County



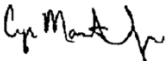
Scott A. Kane
Sheriff
Hancock County



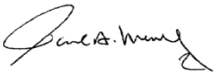
Roland J. LaCroix
Chief of Police
University of Maine



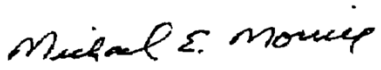
Mark Leonard
Chief of Police
Veazie



Cyr Martin Jr.
Chief of Police
Ashland



Joel A. Merry
Sheriff
Sagadahoc County



Michael E. Morrill
Chief of Police
Yarmouth



Kevin Mulherin
Chief of Police
Monmouth



Susan Nourse
Chief of Police
Freeport

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA

MAINE



Jo-Ann Putnam
Chief of Police
Wells



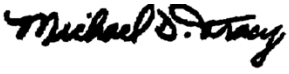
Glenn Ross
Former Sheriff
Penobscot County



Kevin Schofield
Chief of Police
Windham



Charles J. Szeniawski
Captain
York Police Department



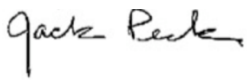
Michael D. Tracy
Chief of Police
Oakland



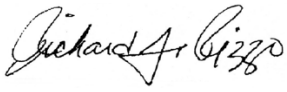
Christopher Young
Chief of Police
Rockland



Robert Young
Sheriff-Elect
Piscataquis County



Jack Peck
Chief of Police
Farmington



Richard J. Rizzo
Chief of Police
Brunswick



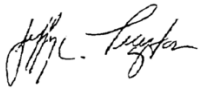
Eric Samson
Sheriff
Androscoggin County



Ernest N Steward Jr.
Chief of Police
Livermore



Edward J. Tolan
Chief of Police
Falmouth



Jeffrey C. Trafton
Sheriff
Waldo County



Tom Pelletier
Chief of Police
Fort



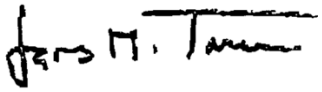
Janine L. Roberts
Chief of Police
Westbrook



Craig A. Sanford
Chief of Police
Kennebunkport



Richard "Rick" Stillman
Chief of Police
Bridgton



James M. Toman
Chief of Police
Gardiner



James Willis Jr.
Chief of Police
Mount