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United States Senate

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COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIR
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to serve the people of Maine, and I welcome this opportunity to update you on the work that has taken place in the Senate over the past year. My staff and I have addressed numerous issues affecting our state, and I would like to share some of the progress that we have made.

Since my *Social Security Fairness Act* was signed into law in January 2025, the law has been fully implemented and restored earned retirement benefits to 2.8 million Americans. More than 25,000 Mainers have seen their monthly benefits increase and have been issued more than \$184.5 million in retroactive payments. I am proud that this legislation has improved the lives of many retired firefighters, teachers, police officers, and other public employees and their spouses.

I was honored to become the first Maine Senator in nearly a century to lead the Appropriations Committee. Since I took this role last January, Congress enacted full-year appropriations bills before December for the first time since 2018. These bipartisan bills included full-year funding for Military Construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration. At my request, these bills included nearly \$35 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for local projects across Maine that will improve fire stations and emergency services, update municipal buildings, and support upgraded facilities at the Maine National Guard and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery. This funding builds on the nearly \$1.1 billion in CDS I have secured since 2021 for worthy projects that benefit local communities and nonprofits across 16 counties. As Chair, I remain committed to working to better ensure that federal spending and investments produce real results for the people of Maine.

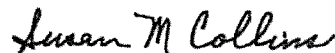
I have also led other important legislative efforts this year that address problems many Mainers face. This includes bills that expand federal efforts to combat Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses and improve access to early testing for Alzheimer's disease. Provisions I authored to strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those struggling with substance use disorders and mental illness were included in the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act* that was recently signed into law. An amendment I authored in this year's *National Defense Authorization Act* will increase apprenticeship opportunities at public shipyards like PNSY. That bill also includes more than \$400 million to support critical infrastructure improvements at PNSY and a well-deserved 3.8 percent pay raise for all our nation's service members.

In addition to advancing legislation, I worked to ensure that federal commitments to Maine were maintained and, when necessary, restored. I secured a seasonal employee exemption for Acadia National Park from the Administration's federal hiring freeze and from closure during the recent government shutdown. I protected local programs like Maine Sea Grant and global initiatives like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) from harmful funding cuts. I led the effort to resume enrollment at Maine Job Corps centers and fought for full funding for Maine's public schools this school year. I preserved funding for the University of Maine System and secured the restoration of funding to the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point and the Penobscot Nation. I protected low-income Mainers' access to key programs like LIHEAP and SNAP. Although I voted against the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* due to my opposition to Medicaid cuts, I helped secure \$50 billion to support rural health providers through the legislation's Rural Health Transformation Program. Maine has been awarded \$190 million in the first year of this five-year grant program.

Throughout my Senate service, I have never missed a roll-call vote and have cast more than 9,850 consecutive votes—reflecting the Maine work ethic I bring to Washington. My continued ranking as most bipartisan Senator from the Lugar Center and Georgetown University is a testament to Maine's tradition of working with cooperation and respect.

My highest priority as a Senator is to ensure that the State of Maine's needs are met. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator