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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

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COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND
COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and
Education, and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6034

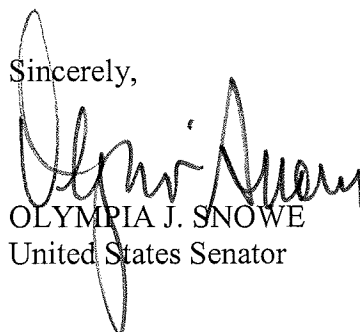
Dear Senator Harkin and Senator Cochran,

I am writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for programs and projects that are important to Maine. A description of these requests in alphabetical order by organization follows.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that I have requested for Fiscal Year 2010, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

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2-1-1 Maine, Inc., Portland, Maine -- \$200,000.

In February 2006, the ten United Way organizations in Maine, the State of Maine, and Youth Alternatives/Ingraham collaborated to bring 2-1-1 Maine to the state. 2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects people to a full range of health and social services in their community. In Maine, it also includes a statewide database of 8,000 services accessible at www.211maine.org. 2-1-1 Maine is available to residents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week providing information and referral sources for all areas of the state, important support during times of disaster and information and rumor control. 2-1-1 Maine serves all 16 counties in the state – a population of 1.3 million people.

This past year, 2-1-1 Maine helped 64,000 people with information, an increase of 44% from FY2007. The number of calls per month continues to grow steadily and they anticipate taking 75,000 calls this year. 2-1-1 Maine is seeking federal support to expand services, particularly in the more rural areas of the state, and meet the growing demand for information about services in Maine. With a per capita personal income that ranks 34th in the nation, in the best of times Maine is a relatively poor state where social services play a critical role in improving people's lives. Given the current economic conditions, 2-1-1 is fulfilling a vital role to connect Maine people with community resources such as food banks, energy assistance, as well as volunteer resources. 2-1-1 also plays a critical role when disaster strikes. For example, in collaboration with the State and community-based agencies, 2-1-1 is answering calls for heating assistance and serving as the sole overnight service for emergency heating assistance calls. They are also collaborating with State Emergency Management and 911 Communications staff, as well as Red Cross chapters to ensure resources are used wisely during storms and other natural disasters, such as the December 2008 ice storm.

The annual cost for operating 2-1-1 is \$1.2 million with \$600,000 in support coming from the State and \$400,000 coming from United Ways of Maine. They are requesting \$200,000 in federal support.

Bates College, Native American Recruitment Initiative, Lewiston, Maine -- \$453,000.

The Native American Recruitment Initiative is a collaborative project involving the Wabanaki Tribes and Bates, Colby, and Bowdoin Colleges. Funding would support (A) the hiring of staff and implementation of recruiting strategies to increase the enrollment and retention of under-represented Native American students on the College campuses, (B) an increase in the range of academic and cultural offerings on Native American topics, and (C) educational aspirations work in Wabanaki communities. The Colleges are more than matching the federal contribution by committing full four-year financial aid packages for each admitted and needy student. In addition, the Colleges will contribute necessary administrative support, such as office space, computers, and office supplies, of an uncalculated value. Financial aid commitments alone would total nearly \$6 million if the Initiative resulted in each of the BBC colleges enrolling five additional Native American students per year for a four-year period, and those students required full financial aid packages.

Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home, Rural Critical Access Hospital Equipment Upgrades for Cancer Detection, Cardiac Monitoring, Patient Safety and Medical Compliance, Greenville, Maine -- \$1,045,000.

The purpose of this request is to replace severely outdated patient safety systems and equipment, upgrade cancer detection and cardiac monitoring equipment, continue the upgrade of IT patient management systems and improve outpatient surgical services. Current income sources do not provide for these improvements to achieve expected Standards of Care. Upgrades in sanitation and sterilization will enable the hospital to reach compliance with Federal CMS Regulations and State of Maine Regulations for SNF, NF and Critical Access Hospitals and the State of Maine Food Code. Patient/staff safety upgrades will provide for compliance with OSHA requirements.

Piscataquis County is documented to have one of the highest chronic disease burdens in Maine. Lack of access to local screening and diagnostic services is one of the reasons individuals wait longer than they should to seek help. With a cancer rate significantly above (30%+) that of the rest of the State of Maine, it is imperative that C. A. Dean provide a path to early diagnosis and treatment options. The equipment request enables the hospital to enhance primary care, screening, and preventative healthcare services so that patients and taxpayers may avoid the higher cost of secondary and tertiary care. These equipment upgrades will enable them to lower the cost of healthcare and ensure broader access for the population.

Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness, Student Disabilities Awareness Program, Portland, Maine -- \$750,000.

Students with disabilities are the largest minority population in schools, including Maine schools where nearly 34,000 or 17-18% of the total student population has a disability. The Student Disabilities Awareness Program promotes lifelong equitable outcomes for all public school students. This program identifies and addresses bias, stereotyping, and harassment that can profoundly undermine education. From an economic point of view, the program identifies and prevents the pigeonholing that can prevent students with disabilities from reaching their potential, continuing with their education, and becoming employed. The program supports taxpayers' investment in schools by addressing discrimination and bias on all kinds of disabilities that contributes to social and learning isolation for students with disabilities. Finally, the program provides employment to Maine educators and support staff who might otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

Eastern Maine Health Systems, Continuum of Care Workforce Development Institute, Brewer, Maine -- \$500,000.

Non-hospital, community based providers encounter greater difficulty in both recruiting and retaining the nursing assistant and nurse leader workforce. Nurse leader and manager positions often remain vacant for 6 months to a year. Development of an advanced skill set curriculum specifically designed for in home and long term care settings and applying it to workforce development for unlicensed direct care workers, (nursing assistants and

personal care attendants) and direct care nurses is key to breeching this divide. Shortages of unlicensed direct care workers and nurses are well documented throughout the State of Maine. On average, Maine nurses are 50.5 years of age, older than the national average of 46.8 years of age. According to the Maine Department of Labor there will be a projected gain of 3,469 new RN positions by 2012. The growth in demand for nurses is exacerbated by the need to replace nurses as they retire. With federal funds, Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems will be allowed to fully staff the Continuum of Care Workforce Development Institute with nurse educators, support staff, and provide access to curriculum and resources needed to attain the patient quality and worker retention outcomes derived from strengthening the direct care and nursing leadership workforce. Funding is being sought from either HRSA or ETA.

Good Will Home Association d/b/a Good Will-Hinckley, Alfond Center of Excellence Career Technical Education, Hinkley, Maine -- \$679,000.

This request is for programming support for a contemporary Career Technical Education Program for at-risk youth in Maine. The project constitutes a partnership between GWH, an alternative school for at-risk youth, and the Harold and Bibby Alfond Foundation, a partnership forged over several years. The success of the project also depends on the active and continuous involvement of several other private and public partners, including the Maine Public School System, the Maine Department of Education, Mid-Maine Technical Center, and Jobs for Maine's Graduates.

GWH is a premier, comprehensive program offering residential, educational, behavioral health and support services to children at risk of failure who are between the ages of 11 and 21. GWH was founded in 1889 has and served over 7,000 children since inception.

This independently evaluated statewide program will have a student capacity of about 100. The target population is Maine youth who are enrolled in a middle or high school and who have been identified as being at risk for educational failure, have social, emotional, and/or behavioral difficulties, and/or have a high degree of family strife or dysfunction. The project is statewide, collaborative, and the degree to which it is successful can be measured. Modeled on the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone, GWH is creating efficiencies to enhance the educational system by offering a specialty educational center that can meet the needs of multiple public schools at one site.

Good Will Home Association d/b/a Good Will-Hinckley, Construction of Alfond Center of Excellence Career Technical Education, Hinkley, Maine -- \$2,675,000.

This request is for construction and renovation costs to house a contemporary Career Technical Education Program for at-risk youth in Maine. The project requires renovation of a former school building (The Moody School) on the grounds of Good Will-Hinckley (GWH), an alternative school for at-risk youth. The project constitutes a partnership between GWH, and the Harold and Bibby Alfond Foundation, a partnership forged over many years. GWH has developed a transformative and systemic response as to how

children, at risk of academic failure, are served in the state of Maine. To great extent this innovative model is dependent upon the infusion of badly needed Career Technical Education based on the physical sciences, particularly Agri-Science, which is broadly expected to play a key role in Maine's conversion to a 21st century economy. The Career Technical Education Program is consistent with Maine's Compact for Higher Education recommendations for innovation and best practices in expanding educational attainment. It is the only Agri-Science tech program in central and southern Maine and is linked to the Maine technology workforce investment system. This program is also key to Hinckley's broader drop out prevention efforts.

Goodall Hospital, X-Ray Equipment, Sanford, Maine -- \$500,000.

Goodall seeks to purchase fluoroscopy x-ray equipment which will allow for a higher quality of diagnostic tests. Fluoroscopy is a type of x-ray "movie" that allows the Radiologist to view an area of interest in real time as an x-ray beam is passed through the body part being examined and transmitted to a monitor. Fluoroscopic x-ray provides a very detailed picture of the area being imaged making it easier to see any abnormalities that may be present. Fluoroscopy is often performed to identify diseases or conditions associated with many body systems, including the skeletal, digestive, urinary, respiratory, and reproductive systems. Fluoroscopy may be performed to evaluate specific areas of the body, including the bones, muscles, and joints, as well as solid organs such as the heart, lung, or kidneys. CT fluoroscopy has many potential advantages; two of the most important are the potential for increased procedure efficiency and a potential decrease in patient radiation dose. Goodall's current x-ray equipment is 14 years old. Because Goodall's patient base is primarily made up of Medicare and Medicaid patients, a more effective and efficient standard of care is of great benefit to the taxpayer.

The fluoroscopy x-ray will expand Goodall's diagnostic capabilities and will allow Goodall to keep up with current standards of care. Even small community hospitals must invest in expensive but necessary technology to meet the needs of its patients. Staying abreast of technological advances benefits the patient directly, but also provides a level of diagnostic quality that allows for quicker, more accurate diagnoses. Higher resolution x-rays lower costs to Medicare and Medicaid by eliminating the need for invasive exploratory surgery and surgical biopsies. In addition, these diagnoses are more accurate than older model scans and save costs from misdiagnosis and unnecessary treatments. This x-ray equipment will elevate the level of care provided at the Hospital while reducing costs to the federal government.

Greenville School Department, Greenville Schools ADA Upgrades and Infrastructure Work, Greenville, Maine -- \$500,000.

The Greenville Middle School/High School is the designated Red Cross Shelter for the entire Moosehead Lake Region. Funds will be utilized to assist local taxpayers in bringing the Greenville MS/HS building up to current Codes in the areas of ADA requirements and Fire Safety in order to meet the needs of the Moosehead Lake Region in the event of an Emergency and as an educational institution for K-12 education. As an

educational system, Greenville MS/HS services students from the entire Moosehead Lake Region, many of whom travel great distances. As a designated Red Cross Shelter for the region, they would be called upon to provide evacuation services in the event of an emergency. Certain infrastructure needs must be met in order to provide these services effectively. Greenville MS/HS can not meet requirements to receive Capital Improvement Funds from the State of Maine due to its small enrollment.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Model to Provide Universal Access to Science Literacy, Portland, Maine -- \$550,000.

The GMRI is seeking \$550,000 to fund 50 percent of the cost of operating its innovative science literacy program and preparing this program for replication in other states. Over the past three years, GMRI has developed a digital interactive science education program designed to increase middle school student engagement with science and science literacy. The goal of this program is to provide universal access for 5th or 6th grade students to a breakthrough experience with science, and to provide their teachers with the training and tools to teach science. In 2008, after just three years of operation, GMRI served 87 percent of this age group in the state of Maine. An evaluation by Lesley University's Program Evaluation Research Group was completed in 2008 indicates this program is having substantial impact. GMRI is seeking funding to sustain its service level during our deepening recession and to prepare to replicate this program to serve students in others states. Discussions are underway with potential partners in Massachusetts, Florida, Texas, and Alaska.

No federal funds have been given to this program in the past. It has been funded by individual, corporate, and foundation gifts to date. Due to the economy, GMRI has been forced to decrease service to Maine's middle schools from 90 to 50 percent statewide in FY2010. This request would enable GMRI to maintain access for students from around the state without regard to the geographic or economic circumstances of their family, school, and community.

The Jackson Laboratory, Improving Treatment Protocols for Chronic Pain in the Veteran Population, Bar Harbor, Maine -- \$920,000.

Funding requested would purchase a pain analyzer and an MRI to study progression of neurological symptoms and response to therapy, as well as allow correlation of animal studies with a human population. A large population of military veterans is returning to civilian life with injuries that are likely to cause them to suffer pain for the rest of their lives. Chronic pain is debilitating and costly in terms of human suffering and lost productivity, and in health care costs for treatment that often provides limited relief. A VHA study indicates that over 50 percent of veterans suffer from ongoing pain. Chronic pain is associated with neurological changes in the brain that create lifelong adverse effects. Funds are requested for a tissue injury analyzer to study animal response to tissue injury and a magnetic resonance imager (MRI) to compare brain studies before and after injury to identify the progressive neurological effects of chronic pain. Veterans' Centers have participated in or expressed interest in this research.

The research goal is to develop mouse models suitable for the study of chronic pain, particularly those that would lead to effective treatment protocols for pain and accompanying brain changes. The individual response to pain varies widely, and the genetic causes of this variation are poorly understood. Mapping genes and genetic pathways involved in chronic pain susceptibility and response and determining points of intervention would enable more effective intervention, reducing suffering, and decreasing health care costs. Development of a database of neurodegenerative changes post-tissue injury would further this research.

The Jackson Laboratory, Public-private Partnership to Improve Science Education through an Online Curriculum in Grades 7-12, Bar Harbor, Maine -- \$245,000.

This project will enhance science education in Maine by connecting middle school and high school students and teachers to the genetics research expertise at The Jackson Laboratory through the Internet. The project will establish summer institutes at Jackson Lab where teachers will develop scientific learning materials and curricula appropriate for their classrooms. Lessons will promote an understanding of genetics research that improves human health or influences health problems such as obesity. It will link teachers and scientists in a communications network allowing statewide interaction on lesson development, background material, and classroom results. Curricula will be developed by the teachers with the assistance of scientific experts in the field of genetics.

A web-based education program will teach the scientific method for identifying and solving scientific problems. It will allow students to learn core concepts of genetics and to explore guided research questions. Simulations will allow users to synthesize and apply scientific data. The curriculum will stress problem solving, the recognition, and use of evidence, and collaboration. Jackson Lab has established partnerships with known leaders in web-based education: the Concord Consortium (Concord, MA.), the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Learning Technology Initiative, the Maine School Partnership, and the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. Jackson Lab seeks to advance science education in an age where scientific practice is increasingly dependent upon digital, virtual environments. The Jackson Laboratory's web-based genetics education will be a widely utilized resource for all middle- and high-school science learning throughout the state, and it is anticipated that it will become an educational program with national reach and relevance.

Jobs for Maine's Graduates, Inc., Jobs for Maine's Graduates Dropout Prevention and School-To-Career Transition Expansion Initiative, Augusta, Maine -- \$500,000.

The mission of Jobs for Maine's Graduates, Inc. (JMG) is to identify students who face barriers to education, and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, a meaningful career, and productive adulthood. JMG's overarching goal is to expand the JMG program, leading the nation in bringing a successful, proven program to scale on a statewide basis. In doing so, JMG will provide multiple pathways that enable all students, including those struggling, to graduate high school prepared for post secondary education and productive careers. JMG has reached the organizational

maturity level and has the leadership, capacity, network, and expertise needed to garner the resources needed to significantly expand its reach.

Through JMG programs, high-school and middle-school students discover their individual talents, develop skills, and seize opportunities to achieve their personal potential. JMG has met this challenge by designing and implementing several program models that create school-to-life pathways starting in the sixth grade and ending in successful transitions to post-secondary education. JMG partners with public schools and all programs are offered as a for-credit course, often in conjunction with the business or vocational education departments of the host school. A unique service of JMG, that distinguishes its program from other programs that serve at-risk youth, is its commitment to formal follow-up. JMG defines follow-up as part of their core program. Through follow-up, JMG Specialists continue to serve students for a minimum of 12 months after leaving middle school and after high school graduation. During this period, specialists provide guidance and mentoring to ensure a smooth transition into high school and its academic and social demands, and to support students as they follow through with plans for life after graduation. JMG's curriculum is partly designed to ensure that students will graduate, but it is also designed to develop each student's career aspirations and relevant plan for higher education.

KidsPeace, KidsPeace Graham Lake Autism Day Treatment Unit Expansion, Ellsworth, Maine -- \$300,000.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) require highly specialized psychiatric care and therapeutic treatment in order to meet their unique needs. They often display delays in speech and language. Furthermore, they generally have poor socialization skills, compounding their difficulties in establishing and maintaining healthy relationships. The 127 years of clinical experience amassed by KidsPeace experts have allowed KidsPeace to be consistently proactive with the services offered to children in crisis. KidsPeace has remained progressive with superior programming for children at its facilities, and while the KidsPeace Graham Lake campus has been providing therapeutic education services to children with ASD since it first opened, recent developments have solidified an increased need for services to these children.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that ASD affects one in every 150 children in the United States, and consistent with national trends, the Graham Lake campus has seen an increase in the number of children with ASD being referred for services. As a result, since October of 2007, KidsPeace has expanded its services by opening a 12-bed ASD unit on the campus to meet the unique needs of youth with ASD diagnoses. In addition, an increase in ASD students attending the KidsPeace Graham Lake day treatment has led to an expansion from one to four ASD classrooms.

Specifically, KidsPeace proposes an expansion of the Graham Lake Day Treatment program, which currently provides educational, therapeutic, and recreational treatment to over 50 children every day. This expansion, which will be constructed by extending a wing off the existing Graham Lake building, will create an Autism Day Treatment Unit

with two classrooms, two bathrooms, a conference room, and two offices for social workers and support staff. As this therapeutic care is specialized and not yet widely offered by local and statewide service providers, children from across the state of Maine will benefit from this program.

KidsPeace, KidsPeace Graham Lake Campus Autism Day Treatment Unit Program, Ellsworth, Maine -- \$150,000.

As stated above, children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) require highly specialized psychiatric care and therapeutic treatment in order to meet their unique needs. Services to be offered from the KidsPeace Autism Day Treatment Unit will include low client-to-staff ratios in self-contained classrooms to provide continuity, individualized attention, social safety, and the requisite neurodevelopmental learning environment (routine, structure, low stimulus); supportive counseling; individual and family therapy as indicated; psychiatric and psychological monitoring and consultation; education delivered in accordance with each student's IEP; professional services such as Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language, as ordered; and Functional Life Skills training. As this therapeutic care is specialized and not yet widely offered by local and statewide service providers, children from across the state of Maine will benefit from this program.

Local Area 1 Workforce Investment Board, Aroostook and Washington Counties, Healthcare and Labor Sector Intervention Project, Caribou, Maine -- \$500,000.

This funding would be a piece of addressing the critical shortage of health care workers while at the same time, addressing growing unemployment in Aroostook and Washington Counties. Both of these are top priorities for the economy and the well-being of individuals residing in the two-county area. Daily, more jobs are lost in the local economy, which is so heavily based on the forestry industry. At the same time, the population continues to age, with health care worker shortages at crisis levels. The people of Aroostook and Washington Counties want and need to work and the health care sector requires workers. The best way to merge these dual needs is through training individuals in the health care occupations so that they can either gain employment or move up the career ladder if they currently work in the health care field.

Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, New England Mobile Outreach Skills Training Program (M.O.S.T.), Augusta, Maine -- \$5,000,000.

M.O.S.T. is a three-phase rapid training and job placement initiative in which nearly 100 percent of trainees who successfully complete the 2-week Phase I receive job offers from participating employers. M.O.S.T. graduates work as operators for machines such as Computer Numerically Controlled, Programmable Logic Control Robotics; Press Brake and Extrusion; Assemblers; Quality Inspectors; and Manufacturing Technicians. The program provides skills that lead to jobs and medical coverage, a capability that does not exist in current training programs.

The M.O.S.T. Program, one of the most successful job training and creation programs funded by the US DOL, was piloted in New England to address the skills shortage in the manufacturing sector. Working with One-Stop partners, the current M.O.S.T. Program has achieved:

- nearly 100% trainees who completed the initial 2-weeks of training received at least one job offer;
- an average annual salary of \$31,200 with employer sponsored health benefits;
- 80% of the trainees received health benefits for the first time;
- 85% retention rate 270 days after placement; and
- nearly 100% of the new hires received a pay raise and a promotion after 90 days.

M.O.S.T. has several advantages over traditional training programs including employers agree prior to the training to hire and provide On-the-Job-Training for those who successfully complete Phase I of the training program; the training program can be customized to suit the needs of participating employers; training is delivered in a state-of-the-art Mobile Training Unit that can be located at the employer's facility or at a location convenient for trainees. This flexibility is important in attracting low-income trainees who lack transportation to local educational institutions and in rural regions where training facilities are not located near participating employers.

**Maine Medical Center, MMC Medical Education Simulation Center, Portland,
Maine -- \$3,000,000.**

Maine Medical Center plans to renovate existing facilities at the Brighton Campus in Portland to house this comprehensive Medical Education Simulation Center. This project will advance its commitment to teach undergraduate medical students from Maine in Maine so they may one day practice in Maine. Hundreds of schools in the United States provide "hands-on" health care education to medical, nursing, and allied health students using the apprenticeship model as the main teaching style, often referred to in medicine as "see one, do one, teach one." Until recently, practicing on cadavers, laboratory animals, or real patients has been the only way to teach doctors, nurses, and other health professionals about anatomy and how to practice medicine. New technology is allowing MMC to radically change the face of both the foundation of medical education and the way they document, certify, and improve practitioner competence and knowledge. Advances in technology are creating better methods for teaching the practice of medicine and reinforcing best practices.

Simulation-based Medical Education is a teaching method in which learners practice tasks and processes in lifelike circumstances using sophisticated models, with feedback from observers, peers, and video cameras to assist improvement in skills. This full environment simulator approach is similar to the flight simulators used to train pilots in which the pilot is immersed in a complete replica of the cockpit environment. Medical simulators allow individuals to review and practice procedures as often as required to reach proficiency without harming the patient.

The Medical Education Simulation Center will include three authentic, fully-equipped, clinical environments containing sophisticated mannequins, known as patient simulators.

These mannequins provide health care professionals with a computer-based patient that breathes, responds to drugs, talks, and drives all the clinical monitors in the clinical environment, e.g., blood pressure and pulse rate. The three clinical areas are: an Operating Room, an Emergency Department Trauma Bay/Intensive Care Room and a Medical/Surgical Patient Room. The total capital expenditure will be approximately \$5,800,000.

Manufacturers Association of Maine, Maine Aerospace Partnership Initiative, Westbrook, Maine -- \$1,051,000.

As part of a state-wide sectoral strategy, the Manufacturers Association of Maine will develop a demand-driven Industry Partnership model that builds upon existing partnership structures to meet the skills needs for businesses, the career goals of workers, and the economic development goals of Maine. The goal is to strengthen Maine's competitive position in the aerospace industry and to expand and grow Maine companies engaged in aerospace-related business. This project will advance the viability and sustainability of Maine's aerospace cluster and result in an increase of jobs, advanced levels of the skilled workforce, economic development strategies, and increase contracts being awarded to Maine companies.

Maine Technology Institute (MTI) has awarded the Manufacturer Association of Maine a \$499,604 Cluster Enhancement Award to establish the Maine Aerospace Alliance (MEAA) and set up the structure of the MEAA. This award comes after a feasibility study of twenty-six OEM's and fifty Maine manufacturers involved in aerospace or have capacity to be in aerospace. The Maine Aerospace Partnership Initiative will strengthen Maine's competitive position in the aerospace industry. This project will result in an increase of jobs, advanced levels of the skilled workforce, economic development strategies and increase contracts being awarded to Maine companies.

Mercy Recovery Center, Community Residential Treatment Program, Westbrook, Maine -- \$985,000.

Mercy Recovery Center (MRC) is the largest substance abuse treatment center in Maine, offering inpatient and outpatient programs for adults. MRC provides its patients with personalized and comprehensive evaluation, assessment, management, treatment, and counseling services that assist patients on their road to recovery. Addiction is the most common reoccurring medical disorder. Currently, wait lists and gaps in care contribute to relapse and repeat use of detoxification services, and are a major obstacle to patient's recovery. However, clinical studies show that long-term sobriety rates are much better for those individuals who continue drug and alcohol treatment in a residential treatment setting.

MRC seeks Congressional funding to develop its capacity to provide a primary and secondary level of addiction care by establishing a community residential treatment center that will provide ongoing support to patients. Residential treatment centers provide on-going supportive services and give clients a safe place to live and stay

connected to the lessons of drug and alcohol rehabilitation while they venture into the world as newly recovering men and women.

National Cued Speech Association, Development of a Certification Process for Teachers who Cue, Nationwide -- \$450,000.

Teachers of the deaf, speech-language pathologists, and other professionals who cue fluently need to prove their skills and be evaluated by a national organization. Not only do they need to have adequate cueing skills, they must understand how Cued Speech can aid in the development of language and literacy skills and how Cued Speech can compliment other strategies for speech, language, and listening development. The NCSA seeks to develop a process to certify professionals who cue and work with deaf, hard of hearing children, or have a language learning disability (autism, Down Syndrome, auditory processing deficit, etc) in order to identify qualified personnel. Schools across the country have been seeking advice from the NCSA about ways to evaluate personnel working with cueing students in a variety of settings. Parents are frustrated that schools are having someone take one class in Cued Speech and then being placed with a cueing student the next day. Fluency takes time and repeated instruction/supervision to develop. Parents and schools are looking for standard measures to use to evaluate the skills of these professionals.

Northern Oxford Regional Ambulance Service, NORAS Regional Ambulance Facility/River Valley Public Safety Facility, Mexico, Maine -- \$1,500,000.

Construction of a new ambulance/public safety facility. The ambulance service is currently a regional program covering over 500 square miles of geography having eleven towns as owners in a quasi-municipal fashion. The local fire services are looking to regionalize and currently have several different delivery models on the table. This facility would be designed and located to immediately address the needs of the ambulance service's viability, efficiency, and effectiveness, but would also be designed and located in a manner that would support continued and expanded regional efforts in both the fire and police arenas. This phase would include a 4 bay metal structure type apparatus area approximately 86 feet by 80 feet in length and width with an attached stick built single story ranch 86 feet by 60 feet to house the administrative offices, crew quarters, and training room.

PenBay Healthcare, Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Initiative, Rockport, Maine - \$500,000

In 2006, with the help of a \$300,000 private grant, PenBay launched the Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Initiative to address all these issues. This program is a comprehensive program designed to focus on two areas: providing a broad-based, two-pronged nursing mentorship and training program that embraces crucial workplace communication. With the initial program underway, federal funding is needed to implement the next phase:

- This is a comprehensive program designed to focus on two areas: providing a broad-based, two-pronged nursing mentorship and training program that embraces crucial workplace communication.
- Through its Care Management program, this initiative will improve retention by reducing the physical workload demands of senior nurses.
- This project will also include Human Factors Training which will provide effective communication training for nursing staff at Pen Bay Healthcare.
- Through its partnership with the University of Maine at Augusta, Pen Bay Healthcare will host an additional eight student nurses per semester for their clinical rotations, providing the venue, permissions and professional interactions required for this program and receiving in return the ability to recruit more new nurses.
- The University of Maine at Augusta Nursing Program will be able to graduate more nursing students sooner by adding more clinical capacity.

Sacopee Valley Health Center, Property Acquisition, Facility Expansion, Renovation and Equipment Purchase, Porter, Maine -- \$517,000.

Sacopee Valley Health Center, a rural healthcare facility, desires to purchase, renovate, and furnish an abutting residence and vacant lot in Porter, Maine, for administrative staff and occasional use by Oxford County Sheriff deputies, and for parking. Vacated space at current location will be renovated, furnished, and equipped to create five additional medical exam rooms and space for group visits increasing effective and efficient access for insured, uninsured, and underinsured patients. Sacopee's service area includes ten towns spread over three counties in Maine as well as two towns in New Hampshire. This funding would provide more access to preventive and primary healthcare to improve the health status of the residents of the area and decrease health disparities.

Sweetser, Sweetser Electronic Client Record System, Saco, Maine - \$500,000

Sweetser requests funding to help complete a comprehensive, agency-wide Electronic Client Record (ECR) system. Sweetser's mission is to provide quality treatment, support, and hope to children, adults and families through a network of mental health, behavioral health and educational services. Sweetser maintains the state's largest alternative school, several community-based programs, a respected medical team, residential services, a training institute and peer center. More than 900 employees and 500 volunteers are committed to Sweetser's vision of helping people find promising futures. Sweetser's PromiseLine phone line connects people who are experiencing behavioral disorders, mental illness, trauma, and abuse with the services they need and deserve.

The project involves the final training phase of Sweetser's comprehensive, agency-wide ECR system. Funds will also cover the lost productivity of employees being trained in Saco and Brunswick. Sweetser has made considerable progress on its ECR initiative, but has several phases left to complete the project. Some 150 clinical and administrative staff have already completed initial training, but 250 clinical and fee-for-service

employees need trainings. To date, Sweetser has invested \$4 million dollars implementing ECR and the first round of trainings.

Full ECR implementation will provide a more efficient, seamless, integrated and coordinated network of care for more than 16,000 Maine residents served by Sweetser each year. The 250 employees awaiting ECR training currently work from the following Sweetser offices:

Bangor: Wabanaki 187 Exchange Street; Belfast: 36 Sweetser Drive; Bridgton: 2 Elm Street; Brunswick, 329 Bath Road, Suite One; Damariscotta, 18 Belvedere Road; Hallowell, 52 Water Street; Lewiston, 689 Sabattus Street; Plymouth, 1430 Moosehead Trail; Rockland, 17 Walnut Street; Saco, 50 Moody Street and 43 Industrial Park Road; Sanford, 863 Main Street; Waterville, 3 Michael Lane and Wilton; 347 Depot Street.

University of New England, Veterans' Transitional Care and Integration project, Biddeford, Maine -- \$1,500,000.

This initiative will address many of the issues raised faced by returning veterans and will expand coverage to veterans/active duty personnel with clear medical and social support needs. It will use a cost effective integrated care approach to transition injured soldiers from acute care back to their home community. Our veterans returning from active duty with a variety of physical and mental health issues often encounter woefully inadequate transitional care. It is difficult for many to transition from the acute care setting back to either active duty or to civilian life. Many have complicated care plans and rehabilitation regimes that their home communities may not be able to support. Despite accomplishments in acute clinical care for veterans, problems occur.

The Veterans Transitional Care and Integration Program combines a comprehensive social model of health care with evidence-based care management, advanced tele-health technologies, employment training and counseling, and follow-up monitoring to enable the veteran to be a healthy and productive member of the community.

University of Maine, Excellence In STEM Education Through Technology-Enhanced Research And Professional Development, Orono, Maine -- \$850,000.

The University of Maine's Center for Science and Mathematics Education Research, in collaboration with the Division of Lifelong Learning and the New Media Department, proposes that four laboratories and problem solving classrooms on the University of Maine campus be equipped with a high resolution camera and microphones at each work group's table, with each table linked to a computer capable of processing and storing all of the data, thus filming, with full audio, each group's discussion as they move through the learning process. These digital videos will permit analysis of students' pre-conceptions and their steps toward understanding. They will also provide the basis for videos to be used in preparing K-16+ STEM educators, including graduate teaching assistants, and technical employees in Maine businesses. In addition, these technology-equipped rooms will provide the real-time capability for students and/or teachers from

other locations to connect and actively participate in group discussions, view laboratory equipment as it is assembled, and data is collected.

With this capacity, UMaine will become an advanced facility for the delivery and investigation of student-centered distance education in STEM. Undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral research associates, and faculty in the Center, in collaboration with those at other colleges and universities, will conduct the research into student learning that this facility makes possible. New Media students and Division of Lifelong Learning staff will assist with the preparation and editing of video materials. An advisory board comprised of STEM educators and business leaders will guide the project. Research findings will be disseminated through annual conferences, and summer institutes will be held to prepare graduate teaching assistants and STEM educators, locally and nationally, using the pedagogical content knowledge and materials generated by this project.

University of Southern Maine, Simulation Laboratory Expansion for the College of Nursing and Health Professions, Portland, Maine -- \$1,000,000.

Congressionally-directed funding will allow for the expansion and use of simulation technology in the existing amphitheater-style classroom allowing more students to participate in an unfolding nursing case, using a simulation model to mimic patient responses. In addition, plans include renovating and expanding the Nursing Simulation Laboratory to accommodate and outfit additional simulation rooms. Given the complexity of the health care environment, especially in hospitals, nursing students increasingly need the opportunity to gain "hands on" experience through simulations and virtual application. This project will provide for the completion of a clinical simulation laboratory to facilitate student learning both in the nursing curriculum as well as in selected science courses that are foundational content for the nursing curriculum.

In addition to helping faculty to accommodate the increasing numbers of nursing applicants and enrolled students and to teach in a way that better prepares the nursing workforce, USM's simulation lab also provides advanced professional development programs for nurses currently employed. In order to further this progress, increased capacity is needed to enable USM to educate nurses for the high technology acute care environment that is rapidly emerging in Maine. The key is having facilities that allow USM to utilize the most current simulation technologies for nurses in training as well as nurses already in the field seeking to integrate the newest skills and knowledge into their professional practice.

The Warren Center for Communication & Learning, Electronic Medical Records, Bangor, Maine -- \$126,000.

The Warren Center for Communication & Learning, a non-profit community speech and hearing center in Bangor, is the major provider of audiology and speech pathology, serving a geographically large, sparsely populated five county rural area in eastern Maine. A key aspect of improving quality of care is the implementation of an electronic

medical record system. Funds from this request will enable us to achieve efficiency through: electronic entry of physician orders, integrating our clinical and billing records, electronic documentation of office visits, and the ability to electronically provide reports to referring physicians in a format that can become part of the client's permanent electronic medical record.

All information, contained in the EMR, will be immediately accessible to authorized clinicians. Continuity of care will be improved, disparities in care will diminish, and efficiency of care will increase and become more patient-centric. Because of the rural nature of the geographic area served and the poverty level of its citizens, communication between medical providers is both difficult to achieve without advanced IT and it is difficult to fund that same advanced IT. Use of taxpayer moneys to fund the initial capital outlay for EMR is a one time expense that will have long term benefit to the citizens of the second district of Maine. This proposal requests assistance with purchasing computer hardware, software, network components, and necessary licensing, as well, as staff training to use the system.

National Programs

Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education -- \$330 million

Congress enacted the CHGME program in 1999 to correct an unintended inequity in a GME financing system that had come to depend on Medicare, which effectively left children's hospitals out. The hospitals, mostly major teaching hospitals, were at a serious financial disadvantage in a very price competitive health care marketplace. CHGME has been an outstanding success and now provides the children's hospitals with 80 percent of the federal GME support other teaching hospitals receive from Medicare on average. In 2006, Congress reauthorized CHGME with overwhelming bipartisan support for \$330 million annually for five years. The program is currently funded at \$310 million for FY2009.

Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) -- \$215 million

The Title VIII programs have been a proven solution to past nursing shortages when provided with adequate funding. These programs support the education of registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, and nurse researchers. Additionally, they focus on recruitment and retention, two other distinct areas impacting the shortage. In FY 2008, the Health Resources and Services Administration was forced to turn away 92% of the applicants for the Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program. This important program directs new nursing graduates into health facilities deemed to have a critical shortage – such as departments of public health, community health centers, and disproportionate share hospitals.

Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – additional \$1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start, and additional \$1 billion for CCDBG.

Since 1965, the Head Start program has prepared more than 25 million preschool-aged children for success in school and later life by providing these children and their families with comprehensive early education, health, nutrition, and social services. In 1995, Congress established the Early Head Start program in response to scientific evidence that a child's earliest years can be the most important to healthy development. Through the Early Head Start program, HHS provides pregnant women, infants, and toddlers with child care, nutrition, health, and early education services through home visits, parent-child activities, and child development centers. Congress established the Child Care and Development Block Grant program in 1990. Since then, CCDBG has enabled millions of children to receive child care and has provided states with essential resources to improve the quality of that care.

Reading Is Fundamental

Reading is Fundamental dollars are used to provide an annual award to Reading is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF) to provide aid to local nonprofit groups and volunteer organizations that serve low-income children through book distribution and reading motivation activities. RIF prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most. RIF is the oldest and largest children's and family nonprofit literacy organization in the United States. RIF's highest priority is reaching underserved children from birth to age 8. Through community volunteers in every state and U.S. territory, RIF provides 4.5 million children with 16 million new, free books and literacy resources each year. I support the amount asked for in the Dear Colleague requests \$28 million for this program.