

127th Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 11

Senator Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
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169 Coles Corner Road
Winterport, ME 04496

December 8, 2015

Honorable Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor LePage:


While I would like to deliver this message personally, my attempts to obtain a meeting with you for the past several months have been unsuccessful. I believe it is important that you clearly understand that, based upon a recent meeting and discussions with other legislative leaders, I am confident the 10 additional Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) agents will be fully funded in a timely fashion. The details of the bill are still being finalized; however, while I don't want to speak for other leaders, I believe you will find we are committed to funding the additional MDEA agents. The final package will include comparable funding for additional treatment, prevention, and drug education programs. The proposal will be subject to the appropriate legislative process, meaning it will have a public hearing with an opportunity for both your administration and the public to weigh in. I am committed to making every effort to ensure that this bill is expedited and made a top priority, with the goal of having it to your desk for your signature on or before January 14, 2016.

While the final details are still being worked on, I am confident the Legislature will take action quickly once session starts in January. As you may know there are a number of bills that deal with drug prevention, treatment, education, and increased sentences for drug traffickers that will be considered this session. These bills will provide all of us an opportunity to develop a comprehensive plan, something you, along with myself and other leaders, have stated support for. I look forward to your

insight and involvement as we discuss ways to combat this epidemic that faces our state and nation.

I am committed to doing everything we can to help make sure our state has the tools it needs to fight this drug crisis. Please feel free to contact me if you would want any additional information or clarification on this or any other issue. Failure to act is not an option. Mainer's lives are depending on it.

Sincerely,


Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate

Cc: Hon. Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
Hon. Justin L. Alford, Senate Democratic Leader
Hon. Kenneth W. Fredette, House Republican Leader