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May 17, 2013

Paul R. LePage, Governor Office of the Governor #1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

As you know, the work the Legislature began nearly five months ago in January to complete a state budget is moving towards completion. The Department has worked countless hours providing committee testimony, presenting at work sessions and compiling information to assist in the budget deliberation process.

No matter how the budget process or other legislation plays out, the number one priority of this Department remains to provide critical services to those in need. We remain dedicated to working with our partners and providers to fulfill our purpose to provide an essential safety net for Maine people.

I want to alert you to an important deadline for our Department, and ask for your leadership in solving this issue with swift resolution. Beginning the week of June 10, our ability to pay the providers who help us deliver vital services to our members is in serious jeopardy. We need dollars appropriated by May 28 in order to meet our obligations.

Without a new budget to address the immediate need for funding through the remainder of this fiscal year, we will not have enough money to pay all of our providers.

We are working diligently to ensure our members are well cared for with the resources available to us. I am hopeful this issue can be resolved quickly to ensure we can adequately safeguard Maine's most vulnerable.

Sincerely

Mary C. Mayhew Commissioner