



STATE OF MAINE
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Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

17 May 2013

Senate President Justin Alford
Office of the Senate President
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Speaker of the House Mark Eves
Office of the Speaker of the House
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Alford and Speaker Eves:

After almost five months into the legislative session, time and money is running out. While Democratic leadership is engaging in Washington-style politics and strong-arming members of its caucus to vote against the wishes of the Maine people, a crisis is looming that will affect our most needy citizens.

If a budget is not approved, the Department of Health and Human Services will run out of money in three weeks. Starting the week of June 10, DHHS will not be able to pay for services for our most vulnerable Mainers. Democratic leaders are so focused on expanding welfare to cover able-bodied people, they have forgotten about the Mainers who are already on Medicaid.

In my letter to the Legislature dated 22 February 2013, I stated that I would not sign the supplemental budget because the funding requests brought forward by DHHS were ignored by millions of dollars without any justification. As expressed in the letter, I was deeply concerned the Legislature would be forced to return with another budget request before the year ends. That time is rapidly approaching.

This situation can be avoided. Months ago I proposed a balanced budget, and I proposed a plan to pay our hospitals. My plan includes a new liquor contract that would bring hundreds of millions of dollars back to our state. My plan would also release bonds to put Mainers back to work. In total, my plan would pour \$700 million into our state's economy.

Democrats have rejected my balanced-budget proposal, but they have failed to put forth their own budget plan. Political posturing by Democratic leadership now has the state employees' union fearing for a government shutdown.

A shutdown is determined by law, not by a governor. If the legislature fails to pass a budget, I have no authority to spend money. With no money, government shuts down. But I am not planning for a shutdown. I submitted my plan five months ago.

What is your plan? Mainers deserve to know.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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