



MAINE

January 2023

Dear Senator/Representative,

Please accept our collective congratulations on being chosen by your fellow Mainers to be their voice in state government. There is little doubt that these next two years will be exciting and challenging ones as you and your colleagues work to forge a path forward as we come through the unprecedented times created by the pandemic. As you do this important work, we hope you will keep in mind that the strength and safety of our communities in the future are often grounded in the priorities and investments that you will be making during the 131st Legislature.

We are writing as members of the anti-crime organization Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, a nonprofit organization including more than 140 law enforcement leaders in Maine, who know from our experience that research-based investments in kids help prevent later crime and make our communities safer. In addition, research shows that these investments can substantially save in corrections and other law enforcement costs over time. We are writing today to ask you to keep our youngest Mainers top of mind in your legislative work and to make funding programs that support our youngest children a priority.

We hope you will join us in our collective commitment to provide high-quality early care and education that is affordable and accessible to all of Maine's youngest children, birth to age 8, no matter what county they live in. This includes growing high-quality, accessible and affordable child care; recruiting, developing, and retaining a solid child care workforce by increasing compensation and strengthening training pathways; and supporting pre-K expansion. In addition, it is important that we improve data collection, tracking, and reporting across Maine's early childhood programs to help you as a policymaker monitor progress, impact, and quality improvements.

We offer an unexpected perspective on high-quality early learning – its impact on crime. Research clearly shows high-quality early care and education for at-risk kids not only can reduce their likelihood of committing a crime later in life, but also provides far greater savings than their cost. For example, a study of Chicago's Child-Parent Centers—government-funded early education programs that have served 100,000 three-and four-year-olds—found that at-risk kids left out of the program were 70 percent more likely to be

arrested for a violent crime by age 18 than kids who participated. At-risk kids left out of another high-quality program, the High/Scope Perry Preschool, were five times more likely to be chronic offenders with five or more arrests by age 27. Another, more recent example: an MIT study of the Boston preschool program found that enrollees were less likely to have been incarcerated in a juvenile facility during high school, compared to non-enrollees. These programs also save money. The High/Scope Perry preschool program cut crime and other costs so much that it saved taxpayers \$16 for every \$1 invested, while the Child-Parent Centers program saved more than \$10 for every \$1 spent – with crime reduction costs being a big part of the savings.

We recognize that there are many competing demands for resources. However, we are currently paying – in staggering criminal justice costs alone – for the previous inability to prioritize investments in evidence-based approaches that give our kids, at the youngest stages of development, the ability to become contributing members of society, rather than a huge drain on public coffers if they drop out of school and move towards crime. As law enforcement leaders we have watched too many kids grow up to become criminals. We urge you to prioritize early care and education program investments shown by research to give kids the right start in life and help keep them on track while saving taxpayers money.

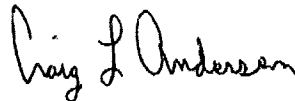
We hope we can count on you to make high-quality early learning a priority during the 131<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

Thank you for your service to our great state.

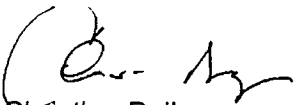
Sincerely,



Daniel Ahern  
Chief of Police  
South Portland Police Department



Craig Andersen  
Chief of Police  
Sanford Police Department

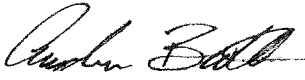


Christian Bailey  
Chief of Police  
Hampden Public Safety

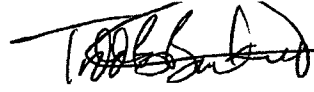
/s/

Erik Baker  
Chief of Police  
Sabattus ME Police Department

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Andrew Booth  
Chief of Police  
Bath Police Department



Todd Brackett  
Sheriff  
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office



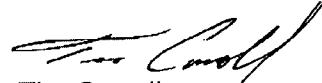
Douglas Bracy  
Former Chief of Police  
York Police Department



David Bucknam  
Chief of Police  
Skowhegan Police Department



James Carr  
Chief of Police  
Greenville Police Department



Tim Carroll  
Chief of Police  
Rockland Police Department



Brock Caton  
Chief of Police  
University of Maine at Farmington  
Public Safety



Richard Caton  
Chief of Police  
Jay Police Department



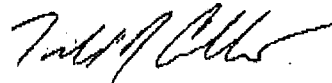
Matthew Clancy  
Chief of Police  
Capitol Police Augusta Maine



William Clark  
Sheriff (Retired)  
Hancock County Sheriff's Office



Jack Clements  
Chief of Police  
Saco Police Department



Hon. Todd Collins  
District Attorney  
Aroostook County District Attorney's Office

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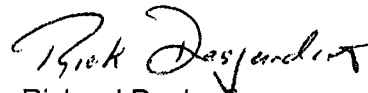
Timothy Cougle  
Deputy Chief of Police  
Auburn Police Department



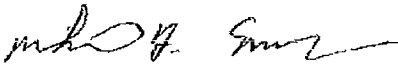
Matthew Cummings  
Chief of Police  
Fort Fairfield Police Department



Michael Dailey  
Chief of Police  
Paris Police Department



Richard Desjardins  
Director  
Maine Criminal Justice Academy



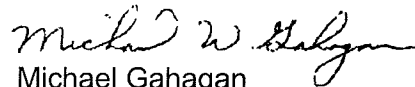
Michael Emmons  
Chief of Police  
Togus Venters Center Police Department



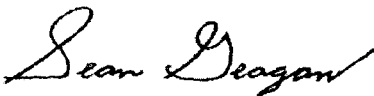
Paul Fenton  
Chief of Police  
Cape Elizabeth Police Department



Naldo Gagnon  
Deputy Chief  
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office



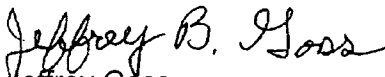
Michael Gahagan  
Chief of Police  
Caribou Police Department



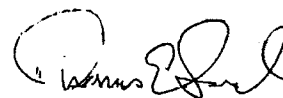
Sean Geagan  
Chief of Police  
Bucksport Public Safety



Shawn Gillen  
Sheriff  
Aroostook County Sheriff's Office



Jeffrey Goss  
Chief of Police  
Mechanic Falls Police Department



Thomas Gould  
Chief of Police  
Fairfield Police Department

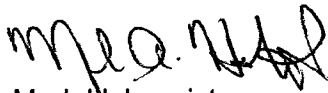
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Marc Hagan  
Chief of Police  
Topsham Police Department

/s/

Roy Hodsdon  
Chief of Police  
Mexico Municipal Police Department



Mark Holmquist  
Chief of Police  
Scarborough Police Department



Kevin Joyce  
Sheriff  
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office



Scott Kane  
Sheriff  
Hancock County Sheriff's Office



John Kilbride  
Chief of Police  
Falmouth Police Department



William King  
Sheriff  
York County Sheriff's Office



Roland LaCroix  
Chief (Retired)  
University of Maine Police Department



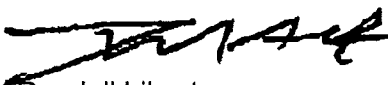
Sean Lally  
Chief of Police  
Westbrook Police Department



Dale Lancaster  
Sheriff  
Somerset County Sheriff's Office

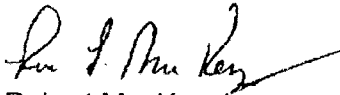


Mark Leonard  
Chief of Police  
Veazie Police Department



Randall Liberty  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Corrections

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Robert MacKenzie  
Chief of Police  
Kennebunk Police Department



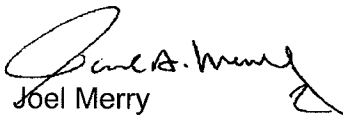
Cyr Martin  
Chief of Police  
Ashland Police Department



Kenneth Mason  
Sheriff  
Kennebec County Sheriff's Office



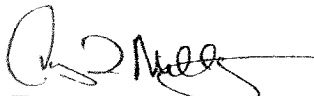
Ryan McGee  
Chief of Police  
Lisbon Police Department



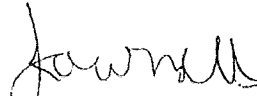
Joel Merry  
Sheriff  
Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office

/s/

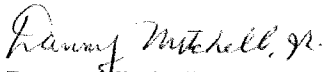
Aaron Mick  
Chief of Police  
Fryeburg Police Department



Tony Milligan  
Chief of Police  
Rumford Police Department



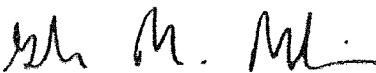
Jared Mills  
Chief of Police  
Augusta Police Department



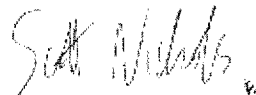
Danny Mitchell  
Chief of Police  
Winter Harbor Police Department



Jason Moen  
Chief of Police  
Auburn Police Department

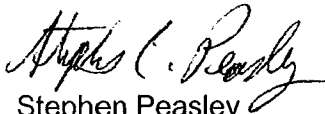


Glenn Moshier  
Chief of Police  
Ellsworth Police Department



Scott Nichols  
Sheriff  
Franklin County Sheriff's Office

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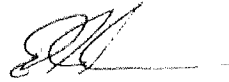
Stephen Peasley  
Chief of Police  
North Berwick Police Department



Jo-Ann Putnam  
Chief of Police  
Wells Police Department



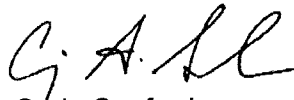
Charles Rumsey  
Chief of Police  
Cumberland Public Safety



Eric Samson  
Sheriff  
Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office



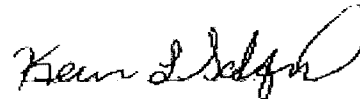
Christopher Sanborn  
Chief of Police  
Gorham Police Department



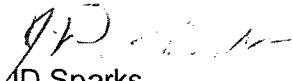
Craig Sanford  
Chief of Police  
Kennebunkport Police Department



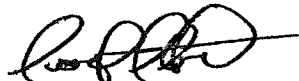
Michael Sauschuck  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Public Safety



Kevin Schofield  
Chief of Police  
Windham Police Department



JD Sparks  
Chief of Police  
Lincoln Police Department



Scott Stewart  
Chief of Police  
Brunswick Police Department

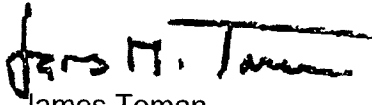


Brett Strout  
Deputy Chief  
Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office



Edward Tolan  
Executive Director  
Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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James Toman  
Chief of Police  
Gardiner Police Department



Michael Tracy  
Chief of Police  
Oakland Police Department



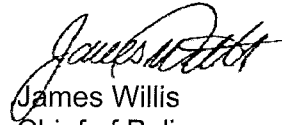
Jason Warlick  
Chief of Police  
Damariscotta Police Department



William Welch  
Chief of Police (Retired)  
Lewiston Police Department



Scott Wilcox  
Chief of Police  
Old Town Police Department



James Willis  
Chief of Police  
Mount Desert Police Department