June *[date]* 2017

The Honorable Senator Susan Collins

United States Senate

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-1904

Attn: Elizabeth Allen & Elizabeth McDonnell

Dear Senator Collins:

My name is *[name],* and I live in *[town/city]*. You have been a steadfast supporter of people with disabilities, for which families in Maine are extremely grateful. Thank you for being a champion for people with disabilities!

I write today to ask you two things:

* Please vote against the American Health Care Act (AHCA); and
* Please oppose any restructuring of Medicaid, such as block grants, per capita caps, or anything similar, because they would restrict MaineCare’s ability to give people the care they need. Our growing waitlists demonstrate that we have insufficient resources already.

*[Insert paragraph about your relationship to a person or persons with intellectual disabilities or autism (your story). For example: (my son/daughter, etc.) has a diagnosis of (autism/Down Syndrome/intellectual disability) and receives services under MaineCare. These critical services allow (my son/daughter) to thrive, and allow me as a parent/guardian, to hold a job. They also ensure that (my son/daughter) will have a place to live and people to care for (him/her) after I pass away.]*

Crucial services that people with developmental/intellectual disabilities receive under MaineCare allow them to live full and meaningful lives and allow their parents and guardians to maintain their livelihood. These critical services will be cut drastically if MaineCare funding is converted into a block grant or a per capita cap. Under the current proposal, Maine and other states will receive far less federal funding, threatening access to healthcare for tens of millions of low-income families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

Please vote against the AHCA, and please emphatically oppose any proposal calling for a block grant or any other restructuring that would restrict MaineCare’s ability to give people with disabilities the care they need. I am counting on you.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. It’s very important to me and my family.

Sincerely,

*[Name]*

*[Contact information]*