January *[date]* 2017

The Honorable Senator Susan Collins

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510-1904

Attn: Jay Lim

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 our sons and daughters with disabilities!

I write today to ask you two things:

* Please vote against repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA); and
* Please oppose any proposal calling for a block grant or any other restructuring that would restrict MaineCare’s ability to give our loved ones with disabilities the care they need.

*[Insert paragraph about your relationship to a person or persons with intellectual disabilities or autism (your story). For example: (My son/daughter, person under my care) has a diagnosis of (autism/Down Syndrome/intellectual disability) and receives services under MaineCare. These critical services allow (my son/daughter, person under my care) to thrive, and allow me as a parent/guardian, to hold a job. They also ensure that (my son/daughter/person under my care) will have a place to live and people to care for him 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 Medicaid funding is converted into a block grant or a per capita cap. Under the block grant proposal, Maine and other states will receive far less federal funding, threatening benefits for tens of millions of low-income families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.

In Maine, there are some 6000 individuals receiving services through MaineCare Sections 21 and 29, and more than 1200 people currently on waitlists for these vital services. These services allow people to become included as part of their communities, and live as independently as possible. Medicaid restructuring, by way of a block grant or per capita cap, will leave Maine with far less federal funding and there will be fewer resources and protections for people with disabilities.

You have gone on record stating that the ACA should not be repealed if there's no suitable replacement plan in place. Thank you for your leadership on this position.

Please vote against the repeal of the ACA, and please emphatically oppose any proposal calling for a block grant or any other restructuring that would restrict Medicaid’s ability to give our loved ones with disabilities the care they need. I am counting on you.

Thank you for all you do to bring Maine’s values of bipartisanship and common sense to Washington, and for your careful consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

*[Name]*

*[Contact information]*