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 standing up for people with disabilities!

I write today to ask you two things:

* Please vote against the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA); 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, including people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, 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 provide (my son/daughter) essential care, and allow me as a parent/guardian, to hold a job. They also ensure that (my son/daughter) will have people to care for (him/her) and a place to live and 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. This is very worrisome, because Maine doesn’t have any other funding mechanism to support these vulnerable populations. If this bill were to pass, we would see a drastic reduction in the amount of funding in MaineCare, and it would be felt quite dramatically.

Please vote against the BCRA, 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 extremely important to me and my family.

Sincerely,

*[Name]*

*[Contact information]*