



STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

December 17, 2015

Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Eves,

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your “comprehensive proposal.” It appears to be nothing more than a few bullet points with no source of funding identified to implement your ideas.

If you were truly concerned about saving the lives of Mainers, you would have funded my plan a year-and-a-half ago to get more MDEA agents on the streets. They would be on the job right now, hunting down the drug traffickers and organized gangs who are surging into our state and selling the poison that is killing our neighbors. The price of playing politics and delaying my plan has been paid with the lives of the very people the Legislature claims to care about.

It is not compassionate to wait until bodies hit the floor, then test which way the political wind is blowing before you decide to do what’s right. The Legislature is constantly in a state of reaction, always waiting for a crisis to develop before finally taking steps to address it. Sadly, those steps are often symbolic, usually involving some catchy sound bites and a smattering of bullet points.

For five years, my administration has been proactive in our budgeting, fiscal management, welfare reform and infrastructure improvements. We have done the same with the drug pandemic now ravaging our state—even though the Legislature has worked hard to deliberately thwart our efforts. Our proposal a year-and-a-half ago was a proactive plan to interrupt the supply of heroin and other deadly drugs into our state before Maine people could get hooked on them. Years ago, we implemented a pain management program that has cut Medicaid painkiller prescriptions in half, narrowing the gateway to heroin addiction.

Your approach is to wait until our fellow Mainers are addicted, then throw more and more of the taxpayers’ money at treatment and recovery programs with no accountability over how efficient or effective these programs really are. We spent \$76 million on treatment and recovery last year, but only \$3 million on MDEA and zero on education. Your priorities are lopsided and designed



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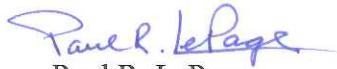
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to be politically expedient, but they are certainly not compassionate to Maine families losing loved ones on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, you are entitled to your opinion, but you are not entitled to make up your own facts.

Sincerely,



Paul R. LePage
Governor

CC: President Thibodeau