



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

November 20, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Dear Senate President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves:

I have received your responses to my letter of November 10. Cutting through the rhetoric, it looks like you are both on board with the need for more MDEA agents to address the raging heroin pandemic in our state. It is killing Mainers every week and this escalating public health emergency requires immediate action.

We stand ready to work with you on a plan to expand upon existing efforts to prevent and treat addiction. However, we cannot stand by and watch Mainer after Mainer die from the flow of heroin and other lethal opiates.

We are not looking to arrest drug addicts. We need more law enforcement officials on the streets hunting down organized drug dealers and stopping them from selling poison in our state. We have to take decisive action to shut them down wherever we can.

As the drug crisis rapidly accelerates, we are falling behind in resources to stop the supply. Any delay in hiring MDEA agents only exacerbates the problem. It takes months to hire and train new drug agents. Had the 14 agents been funded a year-and-a-half ago, they would be on the streets right now. We need to build a pipeline for hiring and training new agents so as some are hitting the streets, more are coming in for training.

You can determine the timeline for funding the new agents. I just need to know you are serious about funding these positions out of the gate when you return in January 2016. If we can work together to address treatment and prevention needs in that timeframe and agree on a comprehensive piece of legislation, great. But in the meantime, I am asking you once again to commit to funding 10 new drug agents – even in a stand-alone bill, if necessary.

I ask that you inform me by December 10 whether the Legislature is planning to fund these new agents. If you do not commit by then, I will take action to keep our state safe and prevent more Mainers from dying.



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I will use every resource available to the Executive Branch to fight drug traffickers, including temporary support from the National Guard. Every life is worth saving, and we will do whatever is necessary to prevent the death of even one more Mainer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul R. LePage". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paul R. LePage
Governor