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MAINE

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 20, 2016

Rafael López
Acting Associate Commissioner
Family and Youth Services Bureau
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

Dear Mr. López:

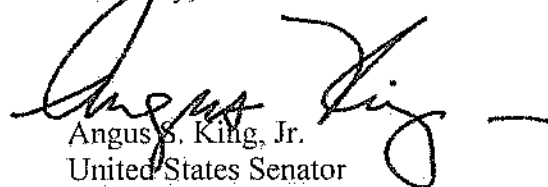
I write in support of New Beginnings' application for funding under the Street Outreach Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Family and Youth Services Bureau. For 35 years, New Beginnings has run Runaway and Homeless Youth programs and in 1996 was one of the first awardees of a national Street Outreach Program grant.

New Beginnings' outreach workers connect with youth who are outside of the traditional service system in high-poverty cities and rural areas of central and western Maine. Many of these youth are living in unstable and potentially dangerous situations or on the streets, where they have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Each year, New Beginnings helps more than 700 vulnerable youth in Maine access the shelter, supportive services, and housing they needed to become stable and productive adults.

New Beginnings recently expanded their Youth Outreach Drop-In Center in downtown Lewiston, ME. The outreach program's street-based services, drop-in center, and access to 24-hour youth shelter help youth to meet their immediate needs and give them ongoing support for accomplishing long-term goals for self-sufficiency. Last year, New Beginnings' outreach program made nearly 2,000 contacts via street outreach, with more than 500 young people benefiting from their drop-in center. As a result of these efforts, 86% of homeless youth utilizing outreach case management from New Beginnings found permanent housing.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of New Beginnings and populations in Maine who are at risk for homelessness and exploitation. I encourage careful consideration of their application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

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