



Helping People. Changing Lives.

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February 25, 2020

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Community Action Association (MCAA) to offer our support for the Two Generation Economic Empowerment Act that you and Senator Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) are reintroducing in the Senate.

MCAA brings together the 10 community action agencies serving the state of Maine. The CAP's mission is to eliminate and alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty by assisting low-income individuals to move toward self-sufficiency. Each year we serve over 120,000 Maine residents providing a variety of services, including Head Start and childcare, housing assistance, development and operation of affordable housing, transportation services, home heating assistance, home repair and weatherization.

MCAA has made a statewide commitment to expand use of two-gen/whole family approaches. Our goal is to break down the barriers to financial stability, surrounding families with the supports they need so they can move forward. As you know, addressing the needs of parents and children together with a holistic service model leads to a better chance of success.

Maine's Community Action Agencies are thankful to you for your leadership in reintroducing the Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act. As you are aware, from your visits to our programs across Maine, we are engaged in this work and have introduced many innovative Two-Gen strategies in recent years. You are also familiar with the challenges we face implementing this approach, as federal funding streams are not conducive to addressing the needs of the whole family. This bipartisan legislation will address some of the bureaucratic obstacles that stand in the way of helping families go from crisis to thriving.

Sincerely,

Jason Parent, President
Maine Community Action Association

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