

ACTION ALERT: Continued Pressure on Policy Makers and Candidates on Social Justice and Professional Issues

As stated in Robyn Merrill's [Portland Press Herald Commentary](#), Congress must act now to avert the crisis for those less fortunate. Now is the time to talk to your legislators and candidates about supporting the "safety net" for individuals and families who are most stressed during this pandemic.

Attend one of the many town hall and candidate forums throughout the state, such as [the Candidate Conversations being coordinated by the Maine Women's Lobby](#) during this week and next. Ask state legislative candidates about their plans or thoughts about:

- 1) supporting child care services and our back to school families during this pandemic
- 2) ensuring that all Maine back to school families have access to computers and broadband

Ask your sheriff candidates about their implementation of community policing models such as the [CIT Program](#) that provides supportive management and treatment that can prevent unnecessary incarceration of persons with mental health or substance use issues.

In partnership with the Maine Women's Lobby, Maine Association for the Education of Young Children, Maine Children's Alliance, and Maine Equal Justice, Contact Senators, we encourage you to contact [Senator Collins](#) and [Senator King](#) about the importance of the principles and funding amounts in the [House HEROES Act and the Childcare is Essential Act](#) to support our back to school families. A bipartisan committee is meeting to negotiate a compromise between the house and senate CoVid relief bills. They need to responsibly come to a solution and act now, before the elections.

Commentary in Portland Press Herald by Robyn Merrill, Ex Director of Maine Equal Justice on the HEROES Act https://www.pressherald.com/2020/09/11/commentary-senate-must-act-now-to-avert-crisis-among-the-less-fortunate/?fbclid=IwAR03EKgcCHwhzgrux314zNuNZh7a7FUlsk4U69-MxvNG_HnVFIOBTBbUs38

Joint Statement to Support Maine's Back to School Families

<https://naswme.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=2AkiOTAYHyM%3d&portalid=27>

Web page for Maine Women's Lobby Candidates Nights: <https://mainewomen.org/mwl/maine-womens-lobby-2020-candidate-conversations/?emci=3ef04e7f-50f4-ea11-99c3-00155d039e74&emdi=d6663b66-8ef6-ea11-99c3-00155d039e74&ceid=3055349>