



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

January 9, 2009

Dr. Thomas C. Hood
The Society for the Study of Social Problems
901 McClung Tower
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0490

Dear Dr. Hood,

I am in receipt of The Society for the Study of Social Problems Resolution: Provision of Day Care to Preschool Children. Thank you for this attention and important resolution towards improved early childhood education.

Maine has "A Working Plan for Humane Early Childhood Systems," which can be found at: <http://www.maine-eccs.org/Invest%20Early%20in%20Maine%202008.pdf>. The plan's intent is to create a more comprehensive early childhood system which addresses the components in your resolution. Our newly formed Children's Growth Council will use this plan as a framework for necessary policy as well as public and private investment in Maine's early childhood system.

Maine offers allocations through the school funding formula to any school district which voluntarily implements a public preschool program and encourages involvement of both child care and head start programs in a community approach to public pre-k. This diverse delivery system can support parents employed outside the home and provide a consistent, high quality preschool experience to Maine's children.

The efforts in Maine are consistent with your Resolution. As a state, we have prioritized investing in young children and look forward to increased federal levels of support.

Again, thank you for the resolution as put forth by The Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

SAG/JB