

September 5, 2018

Dear Senator Woodsome;

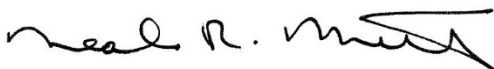
On behalf of the thousands of children and adults with autism, intellectual, and other disabilities that Waban provides essential services to each year and our 450 dedicated, committed, and passionate staff, I wanted to recognize and thank you for your years of efforts to ensure that these critically needed service receive the essential funding that they need.

Year after year, you have championed ensuring that the system of care for some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens has the resources necessary to meet people's essential needs. In doing so, you have provided a model of leadership that is bipartisan, cognizant of social responsibility, and a model of true fiscal accountability.

This past year, one of your many accomplishments was in supporting the effort to forge the consensus necessary to support increasing the wages of thousands of Direct Support Professionals across the state from the sub-minimum wage level of \$9.17 per hour. Your efforts have been instrumental in providing a fair wage for this key work sector group of employees and addressing the state-wide work force crisis that threatened the ongoing viability of these life-supporting services.

In addition, you have selflessly volunteered your time at various Waban community functions and fundraisers and shared your fair-minded and practical approach in all of your interactions. I would hope that you continue to have the opportunity to share your perspectives in Augusta and continue your work for the people of Maine

With much appreciation and tremendous respect,



Neal Meltzer  
Executive Director  
Waban Projects, Inc.