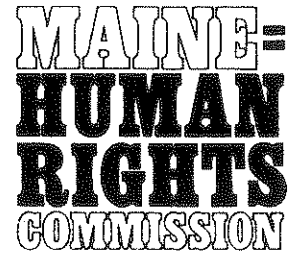


O.F.P.R.

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August 25, 2009



51 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0051  
[www.maine.gov/mhrc](http://www.maine.gov/mhrc)

The Honorable Bill Diamond, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Emily Ann Cain, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs  
5 State House Station  
Augusta ME 04333

*Executive Director*  
**PATRICIA E. RYAN**

*Commission Counsel*  
**JOHN P. GAUSE**

Dear Senator Diamond and Representative Cain:

Please find below the response of the Maine Human Rights Commission to your letter of August 18, 2009, regarding the initiative to streamline state government and identify priority programs.

The Maine Human Rights Commission<sup>1</sup> is a small agency with a single program (Human Rights Commission – Regulation 0150) – to investigate complaints of unlawful discrimination filed under the Maine Human Rights Act, attempting to resolve those complaints prior to a finding by the Maine Human Rights Commission, and adjudicating complaints in which the Commission finds reasonable grounds to believe that unlawful discrimination exists when alternative solutions fail.

We would be happy to provide you with further information as your deliberations proceed.

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<sup>1</sup> The Maine Human Rights Commission was established to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and personal dignity by all inhabitants of the State of Maine; to keep in review all practices and their causes infringing on the basic human right to a life with dignity so that corrective measures may be recommended and implemented; and to prevent discrimination in employment, housing or access to public accommodations on account of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, and in employment, discrimination on account of age and genetic pre-disposition; and in housing, discrimination on account of source of income and familial status; and in extension of credit, on account of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, ancestry, religion or national origin; and in education, discrimination because of sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, national origin and race. The Maine Human Rights Act also prohibits discrimination because of filing a claim or asserting a right under the Worker's Compensation Act or retaliation under the Whistleblower's Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Patricia E Ryan

Patricia E. Ryan  
Executive Director

cc: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary