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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 15, 2009

TO: Senator William Diamond, Chair
Representative Emily Cain, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Nancy Sullivan, Chair
Representative Pamela Jabar Trinward, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

RE: **EFY09 Report**

Please accept this memo as our report back on the proposals made by the Emergency Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year ending 2009 (LD 45). The Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs held a worksession on the supplemental budget on Wednesday January 14, 2009, and those present at that worksession unanimously agreed to present you with the following report:

The committee supports the recommended adjustments proposed by LD 45 for all areas under the jurisdiction of Legal and Veterans Affairs. However, we want to ensure that two important points with regard to our consideration of the supplemental budget are clear.

- It was important to the committee that it be absolutely clear that the \$3000 cut to the travel budget of the director of the Bureau of Veterans Services with DVEM, will have no impact on veterans outreach services. We have been reassured that it will not impact outreach to veterans in need of services. Although, we recognize that this money could be used to offset the accommodation of some temporarily displaced workers from TOGUS at Camp Keyes, since the reduction will not directly impact our highest priority this session, veterans outreach services, we support the \$3000 cut.
- We recognize that the adjustment to the Maine Clean Election Act Fund took root with the passage of the last biennial budget and that this supplemental budget just recognizes

that reduction. However, as the committee of our jurisdiction over the Maine Clean Election Act, an act initiated and ratified by the citizens of the state of Maine, we will object to further reductions in the Maine Clean Election Fund that put the viability of the Act into question. This fund has been tapped again and again to balance the state budget and has yet to be made whole. This fund was established and approved by the citizens of the state of Maine to sustain the Maine Clean Election Act, and as the committee of jurisdiction we will continue to defend it.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our report on the emergency supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2009. Please do not hesitate to contact us, or our analyst, Danielle Fox if you have any questions or concerns.

10 Members present 1-14-09 LVA worksession on efy09 LD 45:

Sen Sullivan

Reps – Trinward, Tuttle, Carey, Nass, Russell, Beaulieu, Cornell du Houx, Pinkham, Valentino