

THOMAS H. ALLEN
1ST DISTRICT OF MAINE



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1901

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August 24, 2007

Mr. Darryl E. Hagar
20 Chamberlain Avenue
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Mr. Hagar:

Thank you for contacting me about your struggle with alcohol and drugs, and your efforts to help others avoid these perils. I appreciate hearing from you.

Chemical addiction destroys lives, families and communities. It is estimated that nearly one in ten Americans is suffering from a chemical addiction, and 150,000 Americans died last year from this fatal disease. Addiction is a private struggle with staggering public costs. According to a Brandeis University study, addiction costs the American economy \$400 billion each year in criminal justice costs, health care costs and lost productivity in the workplace.

Your effort to help these troubled individuals is admirable. While Congress can pass laws to help people at risk of addiction, it is people like you who fight this battle on a local and personal level every day. It takes efforts on many fronts to provide the support necessary to combat drug and alcohol addiction.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I hope you will continue to do so on issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

THA:snh