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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
RANKING MEMBER  
ARMED SERVICES  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

September 10, 2007

Mr. Darryl Hager  
20 Chamberlain Avenue  
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Mr. Hager:

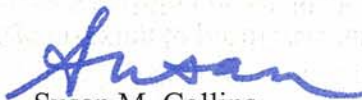
Thank you for contacting me to share your personal story about alcohol and drug abuse. I appreciate your sharing with me information about your personal memoir, "The Man Overboard," and commend you for your dedication to helping others who are struggling with these addictions.

In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, I was a cosponsor of S. 408, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (STOP Act), which passed Congress and subsequently was signed into law by the President on December 20, 2006. The legislation adopts a multi-faceted approach to changing the culture that has allowed teenage drinking to proliferate and focuses on four major areas of development. First, the bill authorizes \$2 million to establish an Interagency Coordinating Committee to coordinate all federal agency efforts and expertise designed to prevent underage drinking. Chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, this committee will be required to report to the Congress on an annual basis the extent to which federal efforts are curbing underage drinking.

Second, the bill authorizes \$1 million to fund an adult-oriented National Media Campaign against Underage Drinking. Research indicates that most children who drink obtain the alcohol from their parents or from other adults. Third, the bill authorizes \$10 million to provide states, not-for-profit groups, and institutions of higher education the ability to create statewide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse by college and university students. Finally, the bill authorizes \$6 million to expand research to assess the health effects of underage drinking on adolescent development, including its effect on the brain.

Your story is indeed an inspiration, and I look forward to working with you on ways to assist those in need of treatment and rehabilitation, as well as efforts to protect our children from these devastating addictions. Again, thank you for contacting me, and I hope you will keep me updated on all of your good work.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

SMC:jnc

