

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 13 FY 94/95
DATE May 31, 1995

**ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON PREVENTION OF
ADOLESCENT SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR**

WHEREAS, Maine's young people are a treasured and valued resource; and

WHEREAS, most young people are able to deal effectively with the rapid changes of adolescence, but some adolescents suffer great stress and conflict during this period of rapid physical and emotional growth, and without support and guidance from family, friends and community, can fall into self-destructive behavior;

WHEREAS, such self-destructive behavior can manifest itself in many forms, including adolescent delinquency, substance abuse, homelessness, pregnancy, depression or suicide, resulting in a significant tragedy for all Maine citizens; and

WHEREAS, additional community support for troubled adolescents is needed to battle all forms of adolescent self-destructive behavior;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish, effective immediately, The Governor's Task Force On Prevention Of Adolescent Self-Destructive Behavior, as follows:

1. Purpose and Charge

The Task Force is charged with recommending a comprehensive plan of action for the State of Maine to prevent adolescent self-destructive behavior and to assure timely intervention and treatment for adolescents should such behavior occur. The plan shall build upon the primary roles of family, friends, and community in caring for our children. In preparing the plan, the Task Force shall survey and evaluate all strategies currently implemented in Maine in this area, identify any gaps in existing resources, and propose solutions that emphasize creative volunteer efforts by families, communities, educators, churches and existing health care providers.

2. Report

The Task Force shall recommend a plan of action no later than January 1, 1996, to the Governor, which report shall be shared with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

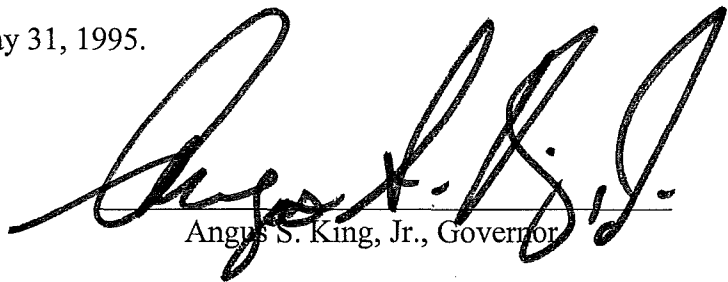
3. Membership

The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall appoint Task Force members, including representatives of the medical community, families of affected children, adolescent peer programs and support groups, educators, law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, legislators, clergy, business and community groups.

4. Funding and Staff

The Task Force will be supported, staffed, and funded within existing resources by the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Department of Human Services, Department of Corrections, Office of Substance Abuse, and the Department of Education. The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall be responsible for coordination of Task Force activities and departmental support. Upon demonstration of need and within existing resources, the Task Force members may receive travel reimbursement for Task Force work, consistent with existing State policies.

The effective date of this Order is May 31, 1995.



Angus S. King, Jr., Governor