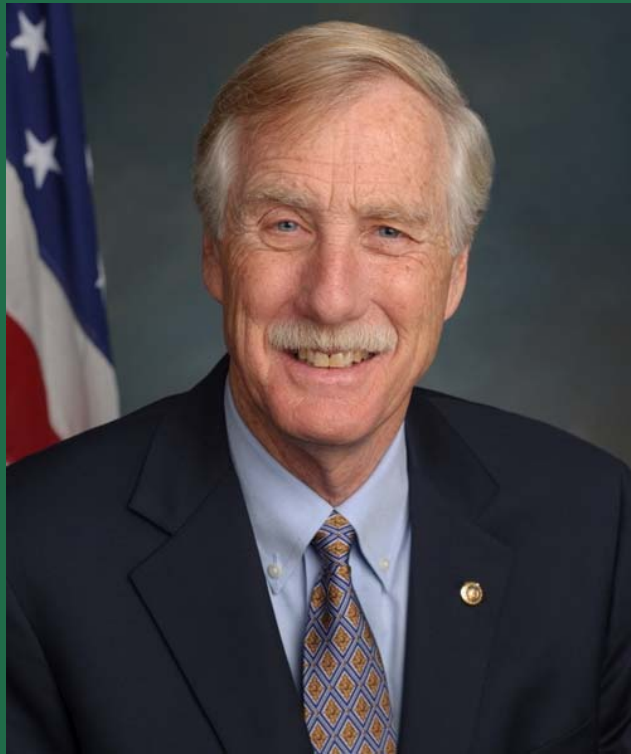




# *DRC NEWS*

## *Save the Date - October 18, 2013*



*Senator Angus King  
To Keynote*

### *DRC 13th Annual Membership Dinner*

President of Swift River/Hafslund Company, an alternative energy development company working on hydro and biomass projects in Maine and New England. Six years later, he founded Northeast Energy Management, Inc., a developer of large-scale energy conservation initiatives at commercial and industrial facilities in Maine.

In 1994, Senator King was elected Maine's 71st Governor. During his two terms in the Blaine House, he focused on economic development and job creation, and also achieved significant reforms in education, mental health services, land conservation, environmental protection, and the delivery of state services. He was re-elected in 1998 by one of the largest margins in Maine's history.

Senator King was born in Alexandria, VA in 1944. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1966 and from University of Virginia Law School in 1969. Senator King is married to Mary Herman and has four sons, Angus III, Duncan, James, and Ben, one daughter, Molly, and five grandchildren. He lives in Brunswick.

On October 18, 2013, DRC will hold our 13th Annual Membership Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport.

DRC is honored to welcome United States Senator Angus S. King, Jr., as our keynote speaker. This evening will also include award presentations to those individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to improving rights, access and inclusion for Mainers with disabilities.

Sworn in as Maine's first Independent United States Senator on January 3, 2013, Senator King joins a long line of independent leaders from the State of Maine. He is a steadfast believer in the need for greater bipartisan dialogue and relationship building among legislators.

Senator King began his career as a staff attorney for Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Skowhegan. In 1972, he served as chief counsel to U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics in the office of former Maine Senator William Hathaway.

In 1975, he returned to Maine to practice with Smith, Loyd and King in Brunswick. In 1983, he was appointed Vice



**Chris Hastedt**  
**2012 Helen M. Bailey**  
**Advocacy Award Recipient**

Chris Hastedt, the public policy director for Maine Equal Justice Partners, is the recipient of the 2012 Helen M. Bailey Advocacy Award, which recognizes an individual who has worked tirelessly to create positive change for Maine residents with disabilities. DRC is thrilled to honor Chris for her passionate, dedicated and zealous advocacy on behalf of our clients. Staff of the DRC have utilized Chris as a resource for more than 25 years. We count on her vast knowledge, her creative strategizing and her unfailingly perceptive analysis of proposed public policy reform. Chris is a readily accessible expert to DRC and to families across this state and on top of all that, she remains optimistic even in the hard times.

In a career spanning more than 40 years, Chris has been a powerful and effective advocate for

Maine families, including people with disabilities. As the public policy director for MEJP, Chris has played an instrumental role in advancing human dignity and the quality of life for countless Mainers.

Chris began her advocacy work at Pine Tree Legal Assistance in 1971 and has been instrumental in developing, improving and safeguarding services and supports through her work with the Maine Legislature. In 1996, she co-founded Maine Equal Justice Partners, and is responsible for policy research and analysis, education and outreach, and legislative advocacy.

In 2005, then Gov. John Baldacci honored Chris with a proclamation Declaring Christine Hastedt Day: "Chris Hastedt has served as a passionate, relentless, and effective advocate for the rights and economic justice of people and families in Maine with low incomes ... [She] provides vision and leadership in driving public policies and litigation that have positively impacted thousands of Maine people."

She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Kutak-Dodds Award from the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association and the Bernard Lown Humanitarian Award from the University of Maine at Orono.

DRC thanks Chris for her many years, long hours and steadfast commitment to making Maine a better place to live.

DRC would like to thank those who supported our 2012 Annual Dinner

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***Christina Kouros***  
***2012 Equal Access For All Award***  
***Recipient***

At our Annual Dinner DRC was proud to present Christina Kouros of Cape Elizabeth with the 2012 Equal Access for All Award. Ever since Christina was a little girl, she watched her friends and family learn how to ice skate or ride a bike or play soccer. Without hesitation, she would throw herself into whatever activity and figure out a way to do these things, too. With her can-do attitude, she has learned how to play sports well. As teams became more competitive, Christina found herself on the sidelines as scorekeeper and team manager more often than not. Those activities were fun and social but she wanted to play.

In high school, she took action and joined her high school Nordic team and track team. Freshman year, she participated in track but was not able to earn points for her team. This bothered Christina so she asked her athletic director, Jeff Thoreck, to help her become a real member of the team. To-

gether, they were able to change the high school track and field rules and now all challenged high school athletes have the opportunity to earn points.

As a wheelchair athlete, Christina's times are compared with other athletes in her age group around the country. As a sophomore, Christina was the first wheelchair athlete to earn a point for her HS track team. Since she was able to break new ground and open up opportunities for other wheelchair athletes, she was given the 2010 New England Junior Wheelchair Athlete award. Since then, Christina has excelled in track, road racing, and Nordic skiing where she races side by side with able-bodied skiers.

Christina has become a world-class Nordic sit-skier. Earlier this year, she skied in the 2012 U.S. National Cross Country Ski Championships where she became National champion and earned a gold medal in the 5km sit-ski race and silver medals in the .8km sprint and 10km races. Her times qualified her to ski in the IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where she raced against the best sit-skiers from around the world. Although she did not medal, she was one of the youngest athletes to participate.

Her biggest dream and aspiration is to someday represent the great state of Maine as well as the United States of America as a Paralympic athlete. She wants to inspire other challenged athletes to come out and play with her, too. She thanks her coach, Deven Morrill, for making these opportunities possible, her athletic director, Jeff Thoreck, for his undying support, her friends, family, her entire town and state and, last but not least, her friends at AtlanticProCare who have spent countless hours making her sit-ski sled for free!

## 2012 BUSINESS AWARD



Since KFI was founded 50 years ago as a school for the area's children with intellectual disabilities in East Millinocket, the organization has changed and expanded to become a regional provider of services to people with disabilities that has been widely recognized and awarded for excellence.

KFI's leadership has transformed a traditional agency operating a sheltered workshop and providing segregated and congregated day programs into personalized community supports and integrated employment. KFI's involvement in local, state and national organizations and their contributions and mentoring to other agencies supporting people with disabilities has inspired social change with dramatic results across the nation. KFI is a nationally recognized champion of civil rights for people with disabilities.

KFI's vision, leadership, and skills resulted in the following accomplishments:

- KFI closed its sheltered workshop in 1987 and eliminated all in-house work in favor of individual jobs in the community at mini-

mum wage or better;

- KFI supported 10 individuals through the process of home ownership and two individuals own their own businesses;
- KFI was named one of ten organizations identified nationally to serve as a mentor through a federal Department of Labor grant that provided training and technical assistance to organizations moving away from sheltered workshops and subminimum wages (2003).
- KFI was the recipient of the ANCOR FOUNDATION'S *national* Community Builder Award in 2008.
- KFI was chosen to mentor organizations to improve integrated community work through Wisconsin's MIG grant.
- KFI staff have keynoted numerous state, regional and national conferences including Minnesota APSE conference, the Wisconsin APSE conference, TASH New England annual conference, Maine Parent Federation Annual Transition Conference and many others.

The Disability Rights Center of Maine is honored to recognize KFI for its exemplary work and for improving the lives of Maine citizens with disabilities.

## 2012 Annual Dinner

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*The Disability Rights Center  
Cordially invites you to attend our  
2013 Annual Dinner  
October 18, 2013 - Hilton Garden Inn - Freeport, Maine*

*5:30 pm Reception*

*6:00 pm Dinner*

*Keynote Speaker  
Senator Angus S. King, Jr.*

*Contribution Levels*

<i>Event Ticket/Patron</i>	<i>75.00</i>
<i>Supporter</i>	<i>250.00</i>
<i>Benefactor</i>	<i>500.00</i>
<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>1000.00</i>

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