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October 10, 2008

Carl Lakari
Project Aware
PO Box 1244
Saco, ME 04072

Re: "Untold Stories"

Dear Carl,

I am writing to convey my thanks to you and the Project Aware Players for your excellent work in producing the movie "Untold Stories". The movie is a powerful tool to raise awareness about school-age bullying and harassment and the devastation that it causes.

As you know, Assistant Attorney General Thom Harnett and I had the honor of attending the premiere screening of "Untold Stories". Together with an audience of over 250 people, we were emotionally drawn into the dramatic real-life stories of two teens who were victims of harassment and bullying in school, and the impact that this hurtful conduct had on their lives outside of school. Thom and I were especially impressed that the movie was written, directed and performed by a group of young students, the Project Aware Players.

We know that school climate is a key factor that determines whether young people will be bullied or harassed. Through the Maine Civil Rights Team Project, the Office of Attorney General works with students in more than 230 schools to create a school climate where every student feels safe, valued, welcome and respected. I am very pleased that the Project Aware Players has produced "Untold Stories", as it will be helpful in conveying what happens when young people are bullied and harassed at school. Importantly, the movie also shows what happens when students speak up and take action against mean and hurtful behavior.

Please extend my thanks and congratulations to all those who were involved with the production of "Untold Stories". Also, I wish you well as you work to acquire funding for the completion of an "Untold Stories" DVD educational package. The educational package should prove very helpful as a tool to raise awareness and take action.

Again, thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Rowe'.

Steven Rowe
Attorney General