

In order to fully understand the magnitude of the effort put forth by these legislature leaders, it is important to understand and put into context what else was taking place in the state house. At a time when the full legislative focus was on getting the state budget passed and their already fully committed schedules had led to meeting for days and nights with just a few hours of rest, these 3 men carved out time to stand up and do the right thing for Maine children.

Recently, Senator Raye was visiting Senator Courtney in his home town of Sanford and both stopped by Waban's Fraser-Ford Child Development Center to meet some of the children and see first hand what they had helped to accomplish. In order to express their gratitude, the Senators were presented with a handmade book that had all the children's handprints and names along with numerous pictures. When presenting the children's gift, Neal Meltzer, Waban's Executive Director, said, "It is important to remember the impact that Senator Raye and Senator Courtney have had in ensuring that some of Maine's most vulnerable citizens received the services that they so urgently needed. Each year, the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center provides essential Early Intervention services to over 120 preschool children with special needs and graduates forty 5-year olds who go on to mainstream kindergartens. Without their efforts, Maine would have been out of compliance with federal special education laws and these children and thousands of others across the state would not have had the opportunity to succeed."