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## Forum to Discuss Issues of Safety in Schools and Society

January 4, 1999

Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

Bangor, Maine -- The Task Force on Safe Schools, a regional collaborative of education and community leaders, will sponsor a public forum on Wednesday, January 13. The purpose of the forum is to hear the concerns and seek the ideas of a broader constituency on addressing issues of incivility and violence in schools and society. The forum begins at 7 p.m. at Wellman Commons, Bangor Theological Seminary.

The Task Force, chaired by Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine, has spent the past six months examining issues, trends, existing policy and resources, and the barriers schools and communities face in preventing and responding to youth violence.

Cobb will preside over the forum and head a panel of listeners that will include: Senator Mary Cathcart, co-chair of the Legislative Committee on School Violence; James Doughty, superintendent of Bangor Schools; Mark Woodward, executive editor of the Bangor Daily News; Martha Newman, chair of the Bangor School Board; Peter Phair, experiential education coordinator, Care Development; and James Haddix, pastor and teacher, All Souls Congregational Church, Bangor.

Public testimony on issues such as zero tolerance policies, confidentiality and sharing of juvenile information, punitive measures, appropriate interventions, referrals that protect victims and assist offenders and other pertinent comments and suggestions are encouraged, Cobb says.

Those wishing to provide testimony to the panel are asked to sign up at the reception table at the forum. Comments should be limited to 3-5 minutes to allow an ample exchange of views.

The forum is being coordinated by Kenneth Vogt, director of development at the Bangor Theological Seminary and co-chair of the task force's Events Subcommittee.