The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1514, "An Act To Conform Maine Law to the Requirements of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation."

Two years ago, I signed into law the bill to create the position of dental therapist. The bill represented a compromise between dental therapy proponents and dentists. Fundamental to that compromise was the assurance to dentists that the new therapists would practice under direct supervision of a dentist—meaning that a dentist had to be on site as therapists perform more advanced procedures, including some that are surgical and irreversible.

Two years later, before any dental therapists have even begun practicing, I am asked to sign a bill that would dispense with that deal I facilitated by eliminating the direct supervision requirement. I decline to take part in reversing that compromise at this time.

The approach outlined in this bill is too much, too soon. Let us give the dental therapists a chance to work under the system we established in the last Legislature and evaluate that system before dispensing with direct supervision. Let us also give the new dental school at the University of New England a chance to graduate new dentists to provide care in underserved areas of the state. I am very concerned not only about the quantity of health care available to Mainers, but the quality as well.

For these reasons, I return LD 1514 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor