13 June 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th 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 324, "An Act To Allow Corrections Officers To Administer Naloxone."

This bill would allow corrections officers to carry and administer Naloxone, which is also known as Narcan. Frankly, this bill is unnecessary as it relates to the Department of Corrections. Narcan is kept in the Department of Corrections system in case there is an overdose. However, most importantly, the Narcan is administered by medically trained professionals in medical units of corrections facilities.

This bill proposes for line corrections officers to administer the drug. Some might say that some county facilities do not have full-time medical units; therefore, this bill is necessary. However, rather invest in special training for corrections officers to administer Narcan, counties should instead invest in medical services. Also, this bill does not address the issue of immunity from suit if something should go wrong with the administration.

For these reasons, I return LD 324 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor