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 809, "An Act to Address Student Hunger with a 'Breakfast after the Bell' Program."

When the State requires a local district to do something and doesn't provide funding, it is an unfunded mandate, pure and simple. If the program is worth doing, the legislature needs to appropriate funding for the program. Imposing layer upon layer of unfunded mandates for our schools contributes to the ballooning local costs of our education system and places more of a burden on property tax payers.

I cannot support a new, unfunded mandate, no matter the worthiness of the cause. Therefore, I return LD 809 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor