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 1619, "An Act To Report Limited Information to the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program Concerning Methadone."

I appreciate the thought behind this bill and would encourage the Legislature to continue to think about ways they can create transparency and increase the quality of Methadone treatment. Unfortunately, this bill is useless. We can already seek consent of the participants in a methadone treatment program to share their information with the Prescription Monitoring Program.

If we are truly serious about addressing the shortfalls of our methadone treatment program, we need to identify ways to ensure the program is integrated into a person’s overall health and to make sure they are receiving the comprehensive counseling they need. We also need to continue to appeal to the Federal government to roll back their antiquated and overly restrictive regulations to allow us to manage our program.

Including transportation costs, we pay approximately $12 million a year for Methadone treatment in Medicaid. This is a significant cost. I agree we need to continue to make improvements to the program, but this bill does not hit the mark.

For this reason, I return LD 1619 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor