5 July 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 481, "An Act To Promote Workforce Participation."

This bill would have provided a $400 bonus to welfare recipients for maintaining a job for just 4 months, rewarding them for something they really should be doing anyway. I understand the desire to motivate people to stay in a job, but at some point government needs to step back and let people figure it out on their own. Why do we feel compelled to have government step in and reward people for doing what they are already supposed do?

We cannot continue to treat low-income Mainers like children, always trying to coax them to do right things. A steady job with a steady paycheck is a reward in itself that increasingly pushes a person toward greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency. I believe Mainers are capable of success without constant intrusion and prodding by State government.

For these reasons, I return LD 481 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor