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 1512, “An Act To Protect the Health and Safety of First Responders.”

I want to make very clear that I think we should make laws that protect those who put their lives on the line to protect the safety of the public. That is why I was a proponent of this bill as it was introduced by the Department of Public Safety. There have been several bills introduced this session to protect first responders or victims of horrible crimes. These bills have either failed to get the required votes to reach my desk or they have been watered down to the point that they do absolutely nothing—which was the unfortunate fate of this bill. I sincerely hope that in the future, first responders find the support they deserve in the State House.

Because this bill has been amended to the point that it does nothing to protect the safety of first responders, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return LD 1512 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor