1 August 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 721, "An Act To Mandate the Reporting of a Planned Act of Terrorism by a Person with Knowledge of That Plan."

This bill represents a dramatic shift in public policy by criminalizing moral obligation. Generally speaking, most people are under no legal obligation to report a crime, whether they knew about it in advance or found out about it after the fact. This bill creates a new strict-liability felony crime if a person has knowledge of another person's plan to commit a crime and fails to report such to law enforcement.

I have serious concerns about the potential unintended consequences this bill's vague language may reap. In particular, I believe this bill should provide immunity to the person who reports a terrorist plot.

For these reasons, I return LD 721 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor