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 891, “An Act to Support the Professional Development of Principals in Maine Schools.”

As I travel the state, I often hear teachers and local officials complain about unfunded mandates. This change to require mentoring programs is a mandate, plain and simple. While mentoring is an excellent idea for leaders, the legislature must stop being so dishonest about increasing costs for local districts without providing funding.

I invite the legislature to work with the Maine Department of Education as it updates the rules concerning performance evaluation and professional growth to address mentoring and coaching.

For these reasons, I return LD 891 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor