13 March 2018

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 1476, “An Act To Ensure Continued Coverage for Essential Health Care.”

This bill presupposes that we have a crystal ball with which to foresee the future of health care in Maine. Speculation, especially in health care, rarely produces good results. Moreover, without knowing what economic and federal regulatory conditions will drive health policy in the future, it would be imprudent to limit the discretion of policy makers.

In passing this bill, the legislature decided to ignore our current challenges and worry about possible future policy issues, proving—yet again—that their priorities are misplaced.

I stand by my opposition to the Affordable Care Act. I will not sign into Maine law the same provisions that have made the Affordable Care Act a disaster at the federal level.

For these reasons, I return LD 1476 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor