6 April 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 1279 “An Act to Ensure Patient Protections in the Health Insurance Laws.”

Once again, the Legislature is second-guessing the federal government by passing this bill to embed provisions of the Affordable Care Act that it favors in Maine law. However, as long as the ACA is still the law of the land, this bill has no practical effect. I will not sign a bill into law based on speculation. The unintended consequences could be as disastrous to Maine as the ACA has been at the federal level. Moreover, I see no fiscal analysis to indicate the true cost of the bill if it were to go into effect in the absence of the ACA.

Without knowing what economic and federal regulatory conditions will drive health policy in the future, I will not limit the discretion of policy makers.

For these reasons, I return LD 1279 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul R. LePage
Governor