17 April 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

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 1435, "An Act to Ensure Transparency in the Distribution of Federal Block Grant Funds."

The Executive Branch is committed to providing all federal block grant information that may be requested by the Legislature, and fully supports transparency regarding the distribution of federal funds. However, legislatively mandating burdensome reporting requirements, as well as allowing committees to circumvent the legislative process to reverse distributions or micromanage block grant funds for special interests, limits the necessary flexibility intended by Congress to accompany federal block grant funds. The responsibility of administering and allocating federal resources should remain an Executive Branch responsibility.

For these reasons, I return LD 1435 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor