25 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 1874, “Resolve, To Ensure the Continued Provision of Services to Maine Children and Families.”

This bill sets inappropriate limitations on the ability of the Executive to manage, enter, and exit specific contracts. Without appropriate flexibility, the team at DHHS is left with little ability to ensure a contractor meets basic performance expectations.

Regarding the specific contracts in question, the legislature’s meddling is completely unnecessary and inappropriate. The Department has already engaged in conversations with the providers to further extend the contracts and to determine what aspects of these services fulfill unmet needs and should continue to be ongoing.

It is the responsibility of the State to provide adequate and appropriate services, but also that the services we pay for are of the highest quality, are not duplicative, and are absolutely necessary for the wellbeing of Mainers. This proposed resolve interferes with the ability to meet those goals.

For these reasons, I return LD 1874 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor