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 812, "Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project To Save Lives and Support People with Substance Use Disorder in Washington County."

The Department of Health and Human Services spent significant time working with community health care providers in Washington County between the first and second regular sessions of the 128th Legislature. They provided technical assistance and expert guidance on how to connect local health care providers and coordinate with both local and statewide resources to fight the opioid epidemic.

The department remains both willing and able to continue serving as a resource for Downeast Maine, but passing a law to require them to develop and implement a pilot project replaces the role of the community with the state government. And in my experience, more government does not necessarily equal better results. The tasks outlined in the bill can and should be undertaken by members of the Washington/Hancock community, and they should not be a mandate on state government.

For this reason, I return LD 812 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor