2 July 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 105, “An Act To Create the Substance Use Disorders Cabinet.”

This bill is politically driven, not funded, and asks people who are already overworked to manage additional bureaucracy. The bill would simply create another committee—made up largely of commissioners and high-level government executives—to meet and, among other things, communicate and collaborate on issues that are already being discussed collaboratively and implemented in state government.

While communication and coordination between state entities is important, this bill creates an unwieldy bureaucratic committee and is based on the premise that government is the solution to substance abuse. Growing government, creating additional bureaucracy, and conducting more meetings is rarely the answer, and it is not the answer this time either.

For this reason, I return LD 105 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor