3 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 1762, “An Act To Ensure Sustainable Health Care Access in the Jackman Region.”

I appreciate the challenge of maintaining health care resources in rural communities in Maine. When Maine General closed the nursing facility and ceased their ambulance services to Jackman, the community came together and developed solutions to ensure adequate access to emergency health care for their residents. They did an exemplary job solving their own problems and initially doing so without government intervention.

Unfortunately, government intervention ultimately has become the path the community believes is the best way forward. I disagree. This bill sets a terrible precedent by providing one-time resources to solve the challenges of a community. The private sector is better equipped and more appropriate to address this need. Once again, more government is not the answer.

For this reason, I return LD 1762 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor