6 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 1321, "An Act To Promote Social and Emotional Learning and Development in Early Childhood."

The Maine Department of Education understands its mission and should be allowed to do its job. This bill represents yet another voluntary pilot program that will require staff to take time away from their work to study an issue the Department has already identified as needing their attention. It is poor public policy to make the Department conduct yet another study and issue yet another report to gather dust on the Education Committee's bookshelf when they understand there is a need here and are working to fill the gap.

For this reason, I return LD 1321 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor