



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

29 June 2015

The 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127<sup>th</sup> 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 1090, "Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Project for Medicaid Reimbursement for Acupuncture Treatment of Substance Abuse Disorders."

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to apply to the federal government to establish a Medicaid pilot program to allow reimbursement of acupuncture to treat alcohol abuse, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders (substance abuse and mental health issues).

While I appreciate the desire to establish a cost-neutral or cost-saving drug addiction program, I am concerned that the evidence for the efficacy of acupuncture in treating addiction is lacking. The studies that seem to indicate it works are of low quality and reliability—they have low numbers of test subjects, are not randomized and double-blinded, and do not use standard treatment protocols. In other words, we would be paying for a service that is not scientifically proven to be successful. I am opposed to using Maine taxpayers' dollars to pay for unproven treatments.

For these reasons, I return LD 1090 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER