



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

1 August 2017

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 1485, "An Act Regarding MaineCare Coverage for Telehealth Services."

Medicaid already reimburses for telehealth services and has a robust policy in place that is helping to ensure access to necessary health services. Telehealth services have seen recent growth, and providers and patients alike are benefiting from access to these services. This bill adds unnecessary clarifications and puts additional responsibilities on the administration with no additional funding.

Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct educational outreach to providers and MaineCare members on telehealth; allowing the Department to solicit and receive grants to establish broader telehealth infrastructure; requiring an annual report by the Department on the effect of telehealth on health care costs, quality and access; and establishing a 10-member advisory council that is required to regularly meet—these requirements are all unnecessary and burdensome. Not only is this bill an additional mandate on the state, it is also an overreach that does not acknowledge three separate branches of government.

For these reasons, I return LD 1485 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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