



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
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 512, "Resolve, To Establish the Committee To Study the State's Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth."

This bill seeks to form yet another legislative committee to produce yet another report that will do nothing to make real progress in the fight against sexual exploitation. Further, the Legislature failed to fund the proposed committee. This is a sad attempt by do-nothing legislators to go home to their districts and pretend to have tackled the issue.

We need to give law enforcement and prosecutors the proper tools to help protect young people against sexual exploitation. This bill's original intent to prevent minors from being charged with the crime of engaging in prostitution would have limited the state's ability to protect future generations. This bill is unnecessary, and I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return LD 512 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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