



STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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 1407, "An Act Regarding Prescription Drug Step Therapy."

Prescription drug step therapy is the practice of beginning drug therapy for a medical condition with the most cost-effective and efficacious drug and progressing to other more costly or risky drug therapies, only if necessary, with the goal of controlling costs and minimizing risks.

This bill outlines a purportedly new mechanism by which patients and their physicians may challenge a health insurance carrier's determination to use a cost-effective medication as a first step in addressing a patient's medical condition.

Drug step therapy is not new. Several years ago, the Legislature amended the Maine Insurance Code Bureau of Insurance to allow health insurers to engage in drug step therapy. At the same time, the Legislature included a requirement that carriers comply with a straightforward statutory exception process that allows patients and their physicians to challenge a carrier's determination to start treatment with a cost-effective medication.

The process outlined in LD 1407 is unnecessarily complicated and is simply not necessary given existing Insurance Code provisions.

For these reasons, I return LD 1407 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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