



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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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 1711, "Resolve, To Save Lives by Establishing a Homeless Opioid Users Service Engagement Pilot Project within the Department of Health and Human Services."

This bill spends over a million dollars on an opioid-use disorder pilot program for 25 individuals—approximately \$40,000 per person. This pilot would be set up apart from existing opioid-use disorder programs and would be in addition to the existing resources the State has already dedicated to this effort. Maine is working hard to combat the opioid epidemic that has affected so many families in our State. We have already implemented the opioid health home program, with a \$3 million investment. Furthermore, the Legislature just passed an additional \$6.6 million in funding for that program. The State is committed to helping those with opioid-use disorder and to using effective methods to combat the opioid epidemic.

This bill was clearly intended to be administered by one specific provider. I cannot support spending an enormous sum of money through a provider that was handpicked by the Legislature on unproven methods for just 25 people. We need to focus our resources on quality treatment and fight this epidemic using proven methods of success with the capacity to reach large numbers of those in need of assistance all across our State.

For this reason, I return LD 1711 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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