



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

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

13 April 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

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 383, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Develop a Plan to Strengthen the Quality and Supply of Child Care Services."

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to engage in duplicative and unnecessary activities. The State currently runs a voluntary quality rating program for child care providers that can be used to attract customers, rendering additional State-funded financial incentives unnecessary. In addition, at this time there is no indication that the amount of federal funding allocated to Maine under the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) will increase. A law directing action based on funding that may or may not become available is unwise.

Furthermore, were an increase in funding under CCDBG to occur, the Department would conduct an analysis of needs and uses for this increased funding across the entire child care system in the State, and use that analysis to develop a plan for use of the additional funding to improve access to quality child care throughout the system. Extremely specific legislative carve-outs of block grant funding limits flexibility and is contrary to the intent of federal block grant funds.

For these reasons, I return LD 383 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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