



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

3 April 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 565, "An Act Regarding the Prescribing and Dispensing of Naloxone Hydrochloride by Pharmacists."

This bill removes a sunset provision in Maine pharmacy law which means that pharmacists will forever be permitted to prescribe and dispense naloxone. The bill also requires the Board of Pharmacy to develop training and prescribing rules for pharmacists who choose to prescribe and dispense naloxone.

The use of naloxone is only one tool in the State's fight against opioid misuse. The Legislature's focus on naloxone as the most important tool is sadly misplaced. As I have asserted in previous veto messages on this subject, to win the fight against abuse of opioids, we must get at the root causes and treatments of addiction, not simply offer the naloxone band aid.

Additionally, this bill is unnecessary because it is redundant. The Board of Pharmacy has already adopted proposed rules relative to the dispensing of naloxone. We do not need more rulemaking on the same subject.

Making it possible for anyone and everyone to obtain naloxone extends the misuse of opioids and is simply bad public policy.

For these reasons, I return LD 565 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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