



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

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

22 February 2013

The 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature:

Despite the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I have decided not to veto LD 250, "An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013." Instead, I will let the bill go into law without my signature.

Nevertheless, I am writing today to express my deep concerns with this bill. Specifically, the funding requests brought forward by the Department of Health and Human Services were ignored by millions of dollars without any justification. The committees that worked on this bill arbitrarily decided to not fully fund our requirements because they wanted to restore funding in other programs. That is not a responsible way to budget and I am concerned the Legislature may have forced us to return with another request before the year ends.

Taking money from various other programs to pay for one we cannot afford is irresponsible. Instead of dialing for dollars or robbing Peter to pay Paul, it is time to summon the courage to make real, structural changes. We can no longer promise everything to everyone – hardworking Maine families cannot afford it.

That is why I call on each and every one of you to be willing to say 'no' during the next round of budget debates – we need to be honest that government is larger than we can afford. It may not be easy and it may not be popular, but it is time to stop hiding from tough choices. It is time we get spending under control. For the benefit of the State of Maine, it is simply something we must do.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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