



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

10 January 2014

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I hereby veto LD 386, "An Act To Reduce Tobacco-related Illness and Lower Health Care Costs in MaineCare."

This bill goes beyond the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act, under which Maine already provides tobacco cessation coverage for MaineCare members, and precludes certain cost sharing, such as co-pay, for pregnant women. This bill would eliminate all forms of cost sharing for all MaineCare members. I am supportive of MaineCare members taking steps to stop smoking; however I believe that cost sharing is an essential component of maintaining fiscal responsibility in our welfare programs as well as improving the success rate of welfare programs generally. Without a cost share component, this bill expands welfare unchecked and does nothing to move us in the direction of a sound fiscal house. This bill presents an opportunity to make clear that Maine lawmakers are ready and able to make tough choices on spending and entitlement programs, and I call on the legislature to find the courage to take that step.

For these reasons, I return LD 386 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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