



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

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

28 April 2014

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:

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 1247, "An Act to Expand Coverage of Family Planning Services."

This bill extends Medicaid coverage for a single service—family planning—to persons with incomes up to 200 percent of federal poverty level. Many individuals to whom this coverage would extend are already required to purchase health insurance on the exchange, and can receive subsidized coverage.

All of these plans already cover family planning as part of the essential health benefits mandate, including reliable contraceptives, annual gynecological exams, Pap tests and even voluntary sterilization.

There is no reason to provide a taxpayer-funded Medicaid benefit to individuals ineligible for Medicaid when they already have private health insurance coverage for family planning benefits. For those individuals who intend to make less than 100 percent of federal poverty level and therefore do not qualify for subsidized private insurance, family planning and health clinics across the state often already charge on a sliding scale, which they indicate is affordable for their clients.

For these reasons, I return LD 1247 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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