



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

March 10, 2016

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Eves,

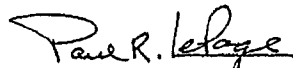
I write to ask for your support for a Governor's Bill I have introduced which will be an effective tool in the fight against illegal drugs. There is a drug crisis in Maine and throughout our country and we must use every available resource to stop this terrible scourge. I am confident that this bill will save lives.

LD 1647 would conform Maine law to federal law, 23 U.S.C.A. 159, requiring an individual's driver's license to be revoked for 6 months if convicted of any violation of the Controlled Substances Act or any drug offense, unless the Governor sends a waiver request to the U.S. transportation secretary indicating that the Governor opposes the enactment and enforcement of such law. I have received such waivers in the past but I will not request one again. Since Maine will not receive another waiver from the federal government when I am in office, Maine will need to comply with this federal law or the state will lose 8%, roughly \$13 million, of our federal transportation funding that supports our roads and bridges. I do not want Maine to lose this money, but I cannot in good conscience continue to request waivers from the federal government when we are faced with such a serious drug problem.

Many of our fellow neighbors are struggling every day with drug addiction. In 2015, 231 people died from drug-related overdoses and 1,013 babies were born addicted or affected by drugs. If this bill prevents just one Mainer from becoming addicted to a deadly drug, wouldn't it be worth the minor inconvenience of a few who broke the law? I hope you agree.

Please support this common sense tool to help curb the deadly drug epidemic in our state.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor

CC: Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

