

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 451

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House of Representatives, March 22, 1923.

On motion of Mrs. Pinkham of Fort Kent, tabled and Tuesday, March 27, assigned, five hundred copies ordered printed.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE

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STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

AUGUSTA

March twenty-second, 1923.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the  
Eighty-first Legislature:

I return herewith without my approval

AN ACT to Accept the Provisions of the Congress of the  
United States Approved November 23, 1921, Entitled "An  
Act for the Promotion of the Welfare and Hygiene of Ma-  
ternity and Infancy and for Other Purposes."

My views on the Sheppard-Towner Bill are well known. I  
reaffirm the position that I took when on July 17, 1922, I issued

a formal proclamation in which I declined to accept Federal Aid for maternity and child welfare work in the State of Maine.

I protest against the passage of this Resolve:—

Because it is an unwarranted invasion by the Federal Government of the sovereign rights of the State of Maine;

Because it establishes in Washington a Federal bureaucracy that is not likely to be in sympathy with the government of this state and the citizens thereof;

Because it invades the privacy of our homes;

Because it infers that the State of Maine cannot and will not properly care for those of its mothers and children who need assistance;

Because it pauperizes our State.

If the State of Maine refuses Federal Aid and sends forth a strong protest against the expansion of this dangerous and undermining doctrine, all lovers of liberty throughout the nation will take heart. The State of Maine then will be hailed as the leader in the movement to return to the fundamental doctrine of our forefathers, that a state is sovereign and will brook no interference in its own internal affairs.

If the State's activities are to be handled by officials in Washington, I warn our citizens that when they have complaints to make and grievances to be heard they will have small chance of obtaining redress at the hands of Federal office holders.

I want the people of Maine clearly to understand that our State Department of Health is now engaged in the very work

called for by the Sheppard-Towner Bill, and that I am in favor of continuing this work under direction of State authorities unhampered by Federal interference. I make the prediction that the day is not far distant when the people of this country will overturn many Federal bureaus and that the States once again will take unto themselves the management of their own affairs.

Maine will not sell its birthright for a mess of pottage.

Respectfully submitted,

PERCIVAL P. BAXTER,

Governor of Maine.