



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder Introducing*

## **LD 1776, An Act To Allow Pharmacists To Dispense an Emergency Supply of Chronic Maintenance Drugs**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services*

Good morning Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Amy Roeder, and I represent House District 125, which includes part of Bangor. I am here today to introduce **LD 1776, *An Act To Allow Pharmacists To Dispense an Emergency Supply of Chronic Maintenance Drugs***.

This bill holds great significance to me. I live with asthma and depend on my inhaler to assist during episodes. If you too live with asthma, you understand the overwhelming fear of not being able to breathe properly. Once, in the midst of an episode, I was denied an emergency prescription. This instance, along with the multiple stories I have heard from constituents struggling to get emergency supplies of their medications, was more than enough for me to research existing gaps in Maine law and seek a solution.

LD 1776 allows pharmacists to dispense an emergency supply of chronic maintenance medications to a patient without a prescription if an authorization is unavailable, so long as the pharmacist has a record of a past prescription for the patient. This legislation also requires insurance companies to provide coverage of the emergency supply. Controlled substances such as opioids are not included in this legislation.

I urge you to support LD 1776, and I am happy to answer your questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.