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**JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO OPPOSE SECTION 8 OF H.R. 1919, AN ACT
TO AMEND THE FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT**

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the United States Congress as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of H.R. 1919, "An Act to Amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act," allows prescription drug manufacturers to decide to supply drug information labels only by electronic means, as opposed to the paper labels currently accompanying prescription drugs upon receipt; and

WHEREAS, a similar provision is not contained in the United States Senate's version of the bill; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress addressed electronic labeling in 2012 and directed the United States Government Accountability Office to study the potential advantages and associated risks of this labeling and the results of the study are due to be released in July 2013; and

WHEREAS, Congress should await the results of the study it ordered to be undertaken before passing legislation that would require critical medical information, such as information on dangerous side effects and contraindications, to be made available to health care professionals and prescription drug consumers only by electronic means; and

WHEREAS, Maine would be disproportionately negatively affected by Section 8 of H.R. 1919; and

WHEREAS, as of 2011, 16.3% of Maine's population was over 65 years of age, compared to only 13.3% for the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, due to its geography, climate and highly dispersed and rural population, significant areas of Maine do not have reliable access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, Maine relies on the forest products industry to create and maintain jobs and sustainably manage Maine's forests, and that industry would be negatively affected by Section 8 of H.R. 1919 without further study of the effects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to urge and request that Section 8 of H.R. 1919 not be passed until the Government Accountability Office study on the effects of required electronic-only labeling for prescription medications is published, reviewed and considered; and be it further

SP0600, , 126th Maine State Legislature
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RESOLVED: That We urge and request that this section of the bill not become law without further consideration and mitigation of the disproportionate negative effects on Maine's elderly, rural and highly dispersed population; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.