

February 15, 2023

Senator Joe Baldacci, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Testimony, LD 223 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend Its Rules Regarding Pharmacy Services

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Matthew Marston, I am a resident of Hampden and the Legislative Liaison on the Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists Board of Directors. Today I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists, an organization that has more than 300 members statewide and primarily represents individual Pharmacists, Technicians and students who practice in a health-system setting. I am testifying today in support of LD 223.

Pharmacists have long served as the medication experts in multidisciplinary care teams supporting the overall health and wellbeing of our communities in Maine. Maine currently holds the ranking of having the eldest population in the nation as well having 61% of our population residing in rural areas. Home Health providers enable our Maine residents to receive care for their complex medical conditions within their home when otherwise unable to travel to receive that care. When provided with the time to spend with patients, pharmacists have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to provide targeted recommendations to patient's physicians in how to eliminate unnecessary medications, combine medications into combination products, recommend less costly alternatives, and connect patients with resources to help them be more successful in managing their medications. Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Minnesota realized a \$12 savings in medication cost for every \$1 spent on pharmacy telehealth services and we can do the same with our State Medicaid program by leveraging pharmacists as a resource.

As we have learned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth provides an effective framework to extend healthcare services beyond brick and mortar traditional settings of care to surround the needs of our patients. LD 223 provides pharmacists with the ability to extend their expertise in medication management to our most vulnerable patient populations in the State and support our Home Health providers that are caring for patients within their home when obtaining this care in a pharmacy or in a medical practice is no longer practical. We ask the committee to consider approving this important bill to help bring this needed support to those in our communities that are otherwise unable to travel to receive this level of care.

The Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists would be happy to work with the committee in any way we can on LD 223. Please reach out if we can be of service.

Kind Regards,



Matthew Marston, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCOP
Legislative Liaison | Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists

Reference

Isetts, B. J., Schondelmeyer, S. W., Artz, M. B., Lenarz, L. A., Heaton, A. H., Wadd, W. B., Brown, L. M., et al. (2008). Clinical and economic outcomes of medication therapy management services: The Minnesota experience. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, 48(2), 203-211.
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