

February 16, 2023

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

RE: Testimony in support of LD 282- An Act to Allow the Department of Health and Human Services to Authorize Standing Orders

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

My name is Amy Downing and I am a resident of Smithfield and the Executive Director of the Maine Pharmacy Association. We are a statewide association primarily made up of individual pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and students. Our members are employed by both large national chain pharmacies, health care facilities, compounding pharmacies and Maine-based independent pharmacies. I am submitting testimony in qualified support of LD 282.

The Maine Pharmacy Association supports all bills that promote patient care by expanding and simplifying immunization access. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians played a significant role during pandemic with testing, and providing immunizations. We are supportive of efforts to continue the important role of pharmacists in the health of Mainers.

We would like to provide additional considerations for the committee. There is a future immunization bill expected this session that has not yet been printed that our association helped with crafting. The Committee may want to see the language of that bill before you take action on LD 282. Both bills are, in essence, trying to do similar thing, but the other bill may be a cleaner way to achieve that. Certainly, this bill is now in the hands of the committee to act on as you see fit, but we wanted to let you know of this other bill. Our members don't want to restrict use for eligible recipients in this one group but looks to provide greater access and better health outcomes for all patients, Maine residents and visitors to the state.

If you have any questions prior to your work session, please reach out.



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