



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

Maine State Legislature – Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Testimony of Laura Hoch,
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LD 1165 – An Act to Enhance Cost Savings to Consumers of Prescription Drugs

Chair Bailey, Chair Perry and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on our support of LD 1165, An Act to Enhance Cost Savings to Consumers of Prescription Drugs, and how it may affect those who live with multiple sclerosis (MS).

MS is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system. Currently there is no cure. Symptoms vary from person to person and may include disabling fatigue, mobility challenges, cognitive changes and vision issues. An estimated 1 million people live with MS in the United States. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to minimize disability. Significant progress is being made to achieve a world free of MS.

When someone is diagnosed with MS, their clinician will typically prescribe a medication referred to as a disease-modifying therapy (DMT). DMTs are used to modify the disease course, treat relapses, and manage symptoms. Growing evidence indicates that early and ongoing treatment with DMTs is the best way to prevent the accumulation of disability and protect the brain from permanent damage due to MS.

Despite more than 20 DMTs on the market for relapsing MS, including some generics, the prices of DMTs continue to rise. The price of MS treatments has dramatically risen since the first DMT was approved in 1993 and entered the market at approximately \$11,500. In 2013, the average price of MS DMTs was around \$60,000 per year; in 2016 the median price of brand DMTs increased to \$80,000; and just six years later in 2022, the brand median price was nearly \$94,000. Six of the DMTs have increased in price more than 200% since they came on the market, with nine now priced at more than \$100,000 per year. The continually escalating prices of MS DMTs are creating barriers to people with MS getting these life-changing medications. In a 2019 survey conducted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 40% of respondents reported that they have altered the use of their DMTs due to cost by skipping or delaying treatment, taking less than prescribed, or even stopping their treatment altogether. Because of the financial burden placed on people living with MS, many are forced to delay retirement or are less able to save and create a financial safety net for themselves as they age.

Given how greatly out-of-pocket costs for drugs impact those living with MS, ensuring that compensation remitted on behalf of the manufacturer is passed directly to a covered person at the point



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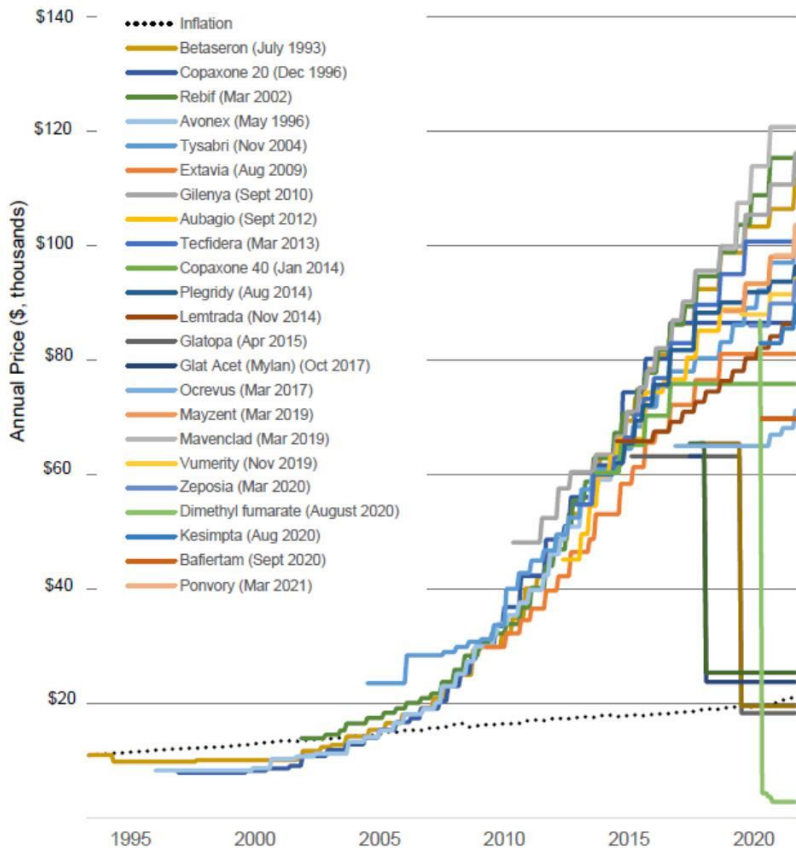
of sale to help reduce costs is critical. LD 1165 would help protect Mainers from the overwhelming burden of drug costs in our current system and ultimately allow them more financial freedom to support themselves, which could lead to cost savings for the state. The Society supports LD 1165 and urges the Committee to vote yes on this legislation.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance: laura.hoch@nmss.org or (860) 913-2550 X52521.



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Trends in annual price for disease-modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis; 1997 to 2022



Drug (manufacturer)	1 Year Change*	Annual Price 2022
Self-administered Injections		
Betaseron (Bayer)	5.0%	\$111,721
Avonex (Biogen)	3.0%	\$96,482
Rebif (EMD Serono)	0.0%	\$115,350
Extavia (Novartis)	0.0%	\$81,070
Plegridy (Biogen)	3.0%	\$96,482
Kesimpta (Novartis)	8.2%	\$89,765
Glatiramer Acetate		
Copaxone 20 (Teva)	0.0%	\$86,554
Copaxone 40 (Teva)	0.0%	\$75,816
Glatopa (Sandoz)	0.0%	\$18,250
Glatopa 40 (Sandoz)	0.0%	\$19,500
Glat Acet (Mylan)	0.0%	\$23,725
Glat Acet 40 (Mylan)	0.0%	\$25,350
S1P Receptor Modulators		
Gilenya (Novartis)	5.0%	\$116,193
Mayzent (Novartis)	5.0%	\$102,938
Zeposia (Celgene)	4.5%	\$93,914
Ponvory (Janssen)	5.4%	\$103,660
Fumarates		
Tecfidera (Biogen)	0.0%	\$100,690
Vumerity (Biogen)	3.0%	\$94,265
Bafiertam (Banner)	0.0%	\$69,770
Dimethyl fumarate**	-25.0%	\$2,738
Other Oral DMTs		
Aubagio (Genzyme)	5.7%	\$103,643
Mavenclad (EMD Serono)	0.0%	\$120,742
Infusions		
Tysabri (Biogen)	5.2%	\$102,126
Lemtrada (Genzyme)	5.0%	\$88,343
Ocrevus (Genentech)	6.3%	\$71,187

Notes: Annual price estimated from wholesale acquisition costs (First Databank)
 Market entrance date in parenthesis
 Dashed line is projected annual price of Betaseron assuming only inflationary increases in price (CPI)
 Lemtrada is based on four 12 mg vials (Package insert dosing: 12 mg/day (5 vials) for five consecutive days in first year; 12 mg/day (3 vials) for three days in year 2)
 *2021 to 2022 (January); **lowest price dimethyl fumarate reported
 Updated 2.15.2022 (Data through January 2022)



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