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To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Regarding L.D. 59, "An Act to Ban the Drug Tianeptine".

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Sen. Beebe-Center, Rep. Hasenfus, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I support **L.D. 59, "An Act to Ban the Drug Tianeptine"**.

I admit I know nothing about the drug Tianeptine, only what I've read in this bill and online. For instance, online, *"Tianeptine is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for any medical use. Despite that, some companies are illegally marketing and selling products containing tianeptine to consumers. They are also making dangerous and unproven claims that tianeptine can improve brain function and treat anxiety, depression, pain, opioid use disorder, and other conditions."* And, *"Tianeptine is used as a prescription drug in some European, Asian, and Latin American countries, but it is not approved as a drug in the United States. The FDA is aware of several serious adverse event reports associated with tianeptine."*

However, I know Rep. Lemelin, and thank him for sponsoring this bill. Knowing his integrity and love of our state and its people led me to investigate further. Also, because this is an emergency bill and is the judgment of the Legislature to immediately rule on it...

I urge this committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 59. Thank you.

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/tianeptine-products-linked-serious-harm-overdoses-death>

<https://www.fda.gov/food/information-select-dietary-supplement-ingredients-and-other-substances/tianeptine-dietary-supplements>