



Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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Statement in support of

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

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

February 3, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department and serve as President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in support of LD 59.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

Most of you are familiar with the term Schedule when referencing a specific drug and that specific drug further being categorized as Schedule W, X, Y, or Z. These schedules are used as a tool to determine the seriousness of the crime and the level of sentencing that should be considered. Examples of drugs classified as Schedule W drugs include certain amounts of heroin, cocaine, oxycodone, and methamphetamine.

The bill before you today is straightforward. It bans Tianeptine in Maine by appropriately classifying it as a Schedule W drug based on its highly addictive nature and opioid-like effects, as well as posing a higher rate of overdose cases compared to other classifications of scheduled drugs. Being able to easily purchase Tianeptine in stores and online, along with it being a lower-cost opioid alternative, is what has led to its popularity in the United States as a substitute for heroin for some individuals.

Maine would not be the first state to add Tianeptine to the highest classification of scheduled drugs. It is banned in multiple states in the South and Midwest. North Carolina imposed a statewide ban of the substance in December.

As law enforcement officers, we have a sworn duty to protect life and property. That is why we support policy recommendations that recognize the dangers certain substances impose on our society and some of our more vulnerable populations. Our hope that by being preemptive and classifying Tianeptine as a Schedule W drug, we will help curb or prevent the use of this drug.

On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we respectfully ask that the Committee vote Ought to Pass on LD 59.