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February 3, 2025

The Honorable Senator Nicole Grohoski
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Taxation
Maine State House
Room 127
2 State House Station
August, Maine 04333

The Honorable Representative Kristen Cloutier
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Taxation
Maine State House
Room 127
2 State House Station
August, Maine 04333

RE: Support for LD 145 – Pertaining to Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Durable Medical Equipment, Breast Pumps and Mobility-enhancing Equipment

Dear Co-Chairs Grohoski and Cloutier:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, dietary supplements, and OTC medical devices, I'm writing to express strong support for LD 145. This legislation expands access to critical medical devices for new parents by eliminating the existing sales and use tax associated with their sale.

Breast pumps are essential medical devices that allow parents to extract and store breast milk for their infants, particularly crucial for working parents who need to return to work before the recommended breastfeeding period ends. These devices support optimal infant health outcomes, as breastfeeding reduces risks of various conditions including asthma and diabetes according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reports that low breastfeeding rates add over \$3 billion annually to U.S. medical costs. Despite infant formula being tax-exempt in most states, breast pumps and related supplies remain taxable, creating a financial barrier particularly for low-income families - an issue that could be addressed through tax policy reform.

Maine families rely on breast milk pumps and supplies as essential items for infant care. By eliminating sales tax on these products, LD 145 would help make them more accessible and affordable for residents across the state. We applaud Senator Rotundo's leadership in introducing this legislation and urge the Joint Committee on Taxation to vote in favor of passage.

Respectfully submitted,



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Cc: Joint Committee on Taxation
The Honorable Senator Peggy Rotundo