



Augusta, ME 04332 | 207-204-8800

February 4, 2025

Senator Donna Bailey, Chair
Representative Kristi Mathieson, Chair
Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

RE: Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 239 An Act to Allow Retail Pharmacies to Operate Remote Dispensing Sites in Rural Areas.

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Amy Downing and I am a resident of Smithfield and the Executive Director of both the Maine Pharmacy Association and the Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Collectively, the two associations address the advocacy, continuing education and professional needs of all licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists in Maine. Our mission is to promote public health by advocating for the profession of pharmacy. MPA and MSHP have come together to submit joint testimony neither for nor against LD 239.

From our perspective, the Board of Pharmacy already provides a route for rural areas to partner with a licensed pharmacy to dispense medications. This special license is called a Rural Health Center Pharmacy. They can be obtained by an entity attesting that there is a need in that rural area and partnering with a Consulting Pharmacist for monthly inspections and entering into a contract with a licensed retail pharmacy. We would encourage exploring this existing license type rather than directing the Board of Pharmacy to start from scratch with entering rulemaking to design a new license type.

We also urge caution any time there is a discussion of a pharmacy license that would not have a pharmacist on site. We firmly believe that pharmacists are an integral part of the health care delivering system. We are happy to work with the committee to ensure that any change to existing license types or creation of new types is done with patient safety being held in the highest regard.

The Maine Pharmacy Association is happy to answer any questions the committee may have as you move into your work session.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Amy Downing'.

Amy Downing, CAE
Executive Director | Maine Pharmacy Association
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