

Thomas CLEMENCE
Phippsburg
LD 210

February 11, 2025

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, Chair
Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Testimony IN OPPOSITION - LD 210, Language Part "SS" Establishes a \$0.70 cents per pharmacy prescription assessment on pharmacy providers

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, and Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Thomas W Clemence, RPh and I am a registered pharmacist at Wilson's Drug Store in Bath, Maine. I am actually semi-retired. I have been practicing pharmacy for 43 years. I am a resident of Phippsburg, Maine. I am submitting testimony in opposition of LD 210 part "SS" which establishes a \$0.70 cent per pharmacy prescription assessment on pharmacy providers.

- The Administration is saying this will be budget neutral in aggregate but there is no guarantee that individual pharmacies will be made whole. There will be winners and losers. Everyone is taxed at the same rate per prescription, but only pharmacies that fill a high degree of MaineCare prescriptions will have a chance to be made whole. This is NOT PHARMACY NEUTRAL as they say.

- It has been well-documented that pharmacies are struggling and looking for a lifeline. We have grave concerns that pharmacies will close if this initiative passes. There are not enough pharmacies to fill the gaps we're seeing. We believe out of state mail order pharmacies will not have to pay this tax under the proposal.

- Pharmacies that have a high elderly population stand to lose, as Medicare Part D dispense fees will not be increased.

- A very well-known fact is that the large PBM's such as Express Scripts, owned by CVS etc are hurting the other pharmacy services, especially small independents such as Wilson's Drug Store. They impose extra fees at will, delay payments and are very difficult to work with. This additional tax of \$0.70 will only cause more stress and harm to the independent pharmacies of Maine.

Thank you very much for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Clemence, RPh