

Ellen Dawson
Swan's Island
LD 210

I would like to express my opposition to LD 210 part SS.

I am a year-round resident on Swan's Island in Hancock County. This is my only residence. My pharmacy, which is in the system of my Medicare insurance, is Carroll Drug in Southwest Harbor.

I listened to the oral testimony from February 12, 2025, by Eric Norbert, owner and pharmacist at Carroll Drug, and found it compelling.

Large "box stores" like Walgreens and CVS, even though they are experiencing their own financial concerns, have a history of pushing out small, independent pharmacies. We have to be careful of legislation that has the effect of putting a damper on local business and entrepreneurial startups.

People who run local businesses often have a high level of civic engagement within their communities, and those communities receive lots of intangible benefits by their existence. Moreover, they generally run "leaner" than big box stores, are more willing to live with narrow profit margins in order to give their employees a living wage and to give their customers reasonable prices.

LD 201 part SS will have an outsized negative effect on one such business: Carroll Drugs. But that is just one example of many pharmacies that serve the many rural, sparsely populated, places with aging populations in Maine.

If Eric Norbert's testimony is accurate, it is a warning that our rural populations will lose pharmacies that fill an important niche — not just desirable, but crucial and essential. In our case, Carroll Drugs works hard with our local doctors to get prescriptions faxed and filled, and delivered, if necessary to us. They are aware that ferry transportation, health situations, even the ability to drive, and other concerns, create a special environment for us. Yet they are willing and friendly and understand.

The legislature simply has to work to ensure that our precious small businesses can actually succeed, and that legislation that looks good in one part of the sector is not actually harming another. Especially if we want to remain proud of how we Mainers take care of each other. Especially if we are proud of our reputation as tough, frontier-like communities that have each other's back. Carroll Drug, and so many other small pharmacies, support the people in the communities where they themselves live. We need to support them back.

Thank you for your consideration.