



March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Donna Bailey  
The Honorable Lori Gramlich  
Members, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Cross Building, Room 220  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: LD 697 An Act to Direct the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board to Assess Strategies to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs and to Take Steps to Implement Reference-based Pricing; Opposed**

Chair Bailey, Chair Gramlich and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA), we wish to share opposition related to LD 697. PCMA is the national association representing pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which administer prescription drug plans for millions of Americans with health coverage provided through large and small employers, health plans, labor unions, state, and federal employee benefit plans, and government programs.

We applaud the committee's efforts to address barriers surrounding prescription drug costs and access through Maine's Prescription Drug Affordability Board. We have concerns with Section 5, 1-C of the bill about setting upper payment limits.

Section 5, 1-C would empower the Board to set an upper payment limit on a prescription drug, but it would not be able to address the fact that pharmaceutical manufacturers set the list price. This would still allow the prescription drug manufacturers to charge the pharmacy whatever price they set, but it may lead to losses per prescription for pharmacies who could not sell the prescription drug at the same price set by the manufacturer. Ultimately, we are concerned pharmacies will have to raise other costs to remain financially viable. Therefore, we request section 5, 1-C be struck from the bill.

Additionally, PCMA requests an amendment to LD 697 to include on the Board a member of the PBM industry to achieve a balanced range of stakeholders.

Thank you for considering PCMA's opposition on LD 697, and we appreciate this committee's work to lower prescription drug costs.

Sam Hallemeier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Hallemeier", is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

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