



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

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The Honorable Donna Bailey
The Honorable Kristi Mathieson
Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: *Support of LD 1053 An Act to Ensure that Rebates from Prescription Drug Manufacturers Are Passed on to Patients at Pharmacies. Share the Savings bill.*

Dear Chair Bailey and Chair Mathieson, and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter, (AAFA New England), we are writing today to express AAFA New England's strong support of **LD 1053, An Act to Ensure that Rebates from Prescription Drug Manufacturers Are Passed on to Patients at Pharmacies**, introduced by introduced by Rep. Kristen Cloutier (D-Lewiston).

Approximately 10% of Maine's population has asthma, a chronic disease. Maine has one of the highest rates of asthma in the United States. The use of prescription medications is an essential part of treatment plans for most of these individuals. Children are the most vulnerable and are at the highest risk for poor asthma outcomes. Health disparities disproportionately affect individuals living in underserved communities who struggle with asthma and other respiratory diseases. We know asthma episodes affect job performance, school performance and lead to costly emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

Adherence to a treatment plan is highly correlated with affordability of prescription medications. LD 1053's provisions would require that compensation remitted by or on behalf of a pharmaceutical manufacturer, developer or labeler to a pharmacy benefits manager be remitted to the covered person to reduce the out-of-pocket costs associated with a prescription drug.

LD 1053 would allow consumers to immediately benefit from cost-savings when purchasing needed prescription medications. For patients with chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies that require ongoing medication, having prescription drugs that are more affordable and accessible would enhance the possibility for these patients to better manage their symptoms, leading to better health outcomes overall.

Reducing medication costs and increasing access to needed medications is necessary to achieve better health outcomes for everyone, especially for those with chronic diseases.

LD 1053 presents the framework for reducing medication costs for needed prescription medications, especially for those managing chronic conditions, to assist patients across the State of Maine who struggle with debilitating diseases.

AAFA New England strongly supports this bill and sincerely hopes that the Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services will move LD 1053 forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jan Hanson, M.A.
President, AAFA New England

Lori Rohleder
Executive Director, AAFA New England