

Dear Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

I am sending you this email as a Maine resident who is deeply concerned about the \$0.70 tax on prescriptions and the \$15 reimbursement rate. I have been working in the healthcare logistics field for a decade, and seeing such a tax added on to our already tight margins is going to cost everyone - pharmacists, pharmacist technicians, specialists, logistics personnel, and of course - all of the patients in Maine. Pharmacies are going to be forced to make unnecessarily difficult decisions to cut staff, reduce hours of operation, and some will have to close their doors and shut down. All of these steps are going to harm the patients which we work so hard and put so much heart into serving.

As more and more pharmacies are forced to reduce their costs to survive (or not), more patients will have to seek care from other pharmacies. This could cause a chain of events leading to even more pharmacies having to close their doors. Many people in the healthcare field will be out of a career or job, and patients will find it increasingly difficult to find a pharmacy who can offer more than minimal care, with deliveries and quality service becoming a memory.

A major pharmacy in Augusta has already closed after this tax was initially announced. That is how negatively impactful this tax is.

Due to the above and my experiences in this field, I am strongly opposed to this tax. Please do not pursue this as a means of revenue and harm our ability to provide for our families in a meaningful career. Please do not take this action, which will be harmful to so many, be it pharmacy teams around the state, our own team here, or the patients whom we serve every day.

Thank you so much for your consideration and looking after the people of Maine.

With hope, respect, and sincerity,

Chris Rider

Delivery Supervisor

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