

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Testimony of Robert Piacine on behalf of CHCollective
04/08/2025

Supporting:

LD 1018, An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by Prohibiting Discrimination by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount Program

Sponsored by Senator Bailey

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, I am Robert Piacine, Vice President of Partnerships of CHCollective, Alexandria, VA.

The 340B drug pricing program was established to help safety-net providers like Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs) to stretch scarce federal resources to provide more comprehensive services and reach more eligible patients in rural and underserved areas.

- I represent a healthcare group purchasing program that provides cost-saving programs to CHCs all over the country. The 340B program is crucial to allowing patients access to affordable medications. Health centers provide care to over 30 million Americans and reduce costs by providing primary care services in hard-to-reach areas.
- If health centers cannot provide primary care services, the overall cost of health care will skyrocket when treatable, chronic conditions become acute, life life-threatening situations that will require hospital stays.

I strongly support LD 1018 and thank Senator Bailey and the other co-sponsors for bringing this bill forward. This bipartisan legislation will stop attacks on our health center from large out-of-state pharmaceutical manufacturers and protect access to 340B, keeping savings from the program in Maine to directly support Community Health Center patients.

Robert Piacine
CHCollective