

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Testimony of Leslie Lorentzen
March 16, 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, my name is Leslie Lorentzen, and I live in Waldoboro, Maine. In my work, I support public health efforts and Community Health Centers across Maine. The 340B drug pricing program was established to support safety-net providers like Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs) to stretch limited federal resources to provide more comprehensive services and reach more patients in rural and underserved areas.

Community Health Centers are essential to the health and stability of Maine. They serve as lifelines for individuals and families who might otherwise go without access to affordable, high-quality care. CHCs also do more than address medical needs; they help strengthen the overall well-being and resilience of entire communities.

If CHCs were to lose access to the 340B program, it would jeopardize the vital services that countless Mainers rely on. The program helps keep medications affordable and ensures that health centers can continue serving people regardless of their ability to pay. Protecting 340B means protecting access, equity, and the health infrastructure of our state.

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.

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