

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and esteemed members of the Committee on Taxation. My name is Olivia Pennington, and I live in Portland, Maine. I am testifying today in support of LD 1734 *An Act to Exempt Over-the-counter Medicines from the Sales and Use Tax*.

Removing sales tax from these basic medications is a great step towards removing barriers to healthcare for Mainers. This bill would make the most basic level of healthcare more easily available. Personally, I live with a painful chronic condition called endometriosis that is best managed with ibuprofen. Ibuprofen is expensive, and accounting for sales tax can make things even more difficult. There are thousands of other examples of Mainers who rely on over-the-counter medications to manage chronic conditions, like gastroesophageal reflux disease, chronic headaches, allergies, and much more.

This bill would make accessing basic medication easier. Whether it is parents buying cold medication for a sick child, or an adult using OTC medication to manage chronic conditions, all people deserve better access to healthcare.

Please vote “ought to pass” on LD 1734 to improve access to medication for all Mainers.