

January 27, 2026

Senator Donna Bailey, Chair  
Representative Kristi Mathieson, Chair  
Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

**RE: Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 2151 An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs in Underserved Areas**

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Amy Downing and I am a resident of Smithfield and the Executive Director of both the Maine Pharmacy Association and the Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Collectively, the two associations address the advocacy, continuing education and professional needs of all licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists in Maine. Our mission is to promote public health by advocating for the profession of pharmacy. MPA and MSHP have come together to submit joint testimony neither for nor against LD 2151.

The Maine Pharmacy Association acknowledges the intent of LD 2151 to address access to affordable prescription drugs in rural and underserved areas of the State. We recognize that access challenges exist in many communities and that federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) play an important role in delivering care to underserved populations.

As written, LD 2151 is narrowly structured to provide funding exclusively to federally qualified health centers for the development or expansion of pharmacy services. The bill does not establish a broader framework for pharmacy access and limits eligibility to a specific provider type. Communities that rely on independent pharmacies or that do not have a federally qualified health center would not be directly impacted by the funding provided under this proposal.

The Association notes that pharmacy access challenges in rural and underserved areas vary across the State and affect multiple types of pharmacy providers. Existing pharmacies in many communities currently deliver prescription services and, in some cases, face workforce and economic pressures that impact their ability to maintain or expand access.

For these reasons, while the Maine Pharmacy Association does not oppose LD 2151, we are neither for nor against the bill as written. We appreciate the opportunity to share these observations for the committee's consideration and are happy to answer any questions the committee may have as you move into your work session.



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