



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Anne Graham

97 Farms Edge Road

North Yarmouth, ME 04097

Cell Phone: 846-0049

Anne.Graham@legislature.maine.gov

February 8, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Anne Graham presenting

**LD 282, An Act to Allow the Department of Health and Human Services to Authorize
Standing Orders**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and my esteemed colleagues of the Health and Human services committee, I am Representative Anne Graham and I represent the communities of North Yarmouth and Gray, House District #105. I am here to present to you

LD 282: An Act to Allow the Department of Health and Human Services to Authorize Standing Orders.

This bill allows the Department of Health and Human Services to authorize standing orders for the dispensing of over the counter, nonprescription drugs and vaccines to MaineCare members, participants in the state-funded medical program for noncitizens, enrollees in the elderly low-cost drug program, certain qualified residents and persons receiving Cub Care to support access to preventive care and medically necessary services. Without such an order, the Federal Government prohibits the Department from covering these services for MaineCare members.

This bill is about ensuring access to medications that can be unaffordable to people who truly need them. An example is the parent who needs medication for her child's painful ear infection. A commonly used medication that provides local ear pain relief called Auralgan. Its retail cost ranges from \$5.50 to \$8.00. When your child is hurting, you will do anything to help your child. Getting to a provider or clinic to get a prescription can be very hard. If a standing order is in place, auralgan can be covered by MaineCare and the child will feel better, sooner.

Consider if you are someone who finally wants to quit smoking, you would pay \$57.34 for Nicorette gum. Yes, you could get a prescription from your PCP, but by the time you get an appointment, you may change your mind, missing the opportunity to start to quit your addiction to nicotine. If a standing order was in place, quitting your addiction can begin promptly.

This bill is about access to prevention and health care. By preventing illness with flu vaccines, treating symptoms of illness and helping to prevent long term illness, the people of Maine benefit. Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer your questions along with the Department, who are here to fill in the details.

District 105: North Yarmouth and Gray