



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Anne C. Perry

474 South St.

Calais, ME 04619

Phone: (207) 214-7000

anne.perry@legislature.maine.gov

March 21, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Anne Perry introducing

LD 940, An Act to Allow Pharmacists to Provide Services Through Telehealth and Vending Machines at Federally Qualified Health Centers

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Good afternoon Senator Bailey and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Representative Anne Perry and I represent ten communities in Washington County. I am here to introduce **LD 940, An Act to Allow Pharmacists to Provide Services Through Telehealth and Vending Machines at Federally Qualified Health Centers.**

The need for this bill came as a result of conversations with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Washington County. Let me give you a little history. It was in the early 2000s that we lost some local pharmacies, notably in Eastport and Lubec. This meant that people had to travel between 30 to 50 miles to get to a pharmacy. As a result, the legislature voted for a pilot project for vending medications at the FQHC in Lubec. This was originally handled by Treworgy's Pharmacy in Calais and was very successful. Eventually, Treworgy's closed due to the retirement of the pharmacist and it was now time to find other pharmacists willing to take on the task.

It has now become more and more difficult to find pharmacists available to do this, which is another example of our continued struggle for additional healthcare workforce.

The people behind me will be able to give better examples of why this is important to rural FQHCs.

We have been working with the Board of Pharmacy to find a compromise that we can all agree to and hope to come back to the work session with an amendment to the bill.