



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

**In Support Of**

LD 2114, An Act to Improve Patient Access to and Savings from Generic Drugs and Biosimilars

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Austin Vaughan, and I am a medical student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2114, An Act to Improve Patient Access to and Savings from Generic Drugs and Biosimilars on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

This year MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined together to advocate from one voice. We all have determined that it is important to testify in support of LD 2214.

We endorse all appropriate and safe cost saving measures when it comes to prescription drugs, especially at a time when some patients are having to make the unthinkable decision about whether to pay for their medicine or buy groceries for their families. Generic and biosimilar drugs are a path to these cost savings: in 2022, "the U.S. healthcare system, including patients, employers, and taxpayers, saved \$408 billion ... by using

FDA-approved generic and biosimilar drugs.”<sup>1</sup> But, in order to ensure our patients here in Maine benefit from those savings, we need to enact measures that remove barriers to accessing these medications like outlined in this bill.

This bill is a step in that direction because it would require health insurance companies to allow generic drugs to have lower out-of-pocket costs and from imposing any limitations like prior authorization or step therapy for coverage of the generic drug or biosimilar. It also requires immediate access to these drugs once they are approved by the FDA, which ensures Mainers will not have to wait in order to benefit from these medications.

Our patients need access to their prescription medicine because it saves lives. MMA and MOA support any effort to ensure that we are increasing options for our patients and relieving some of the financial burdens that many of them face.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine’s physician and public health communities about LD 2214. We urge you to support this bill. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Austin Vaughan

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<https://accessiblemeds.org/resources/press-releases/generic-biosimilar-drugs-generate-408-billion-savings-2022#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20analysis%2C%20the,approved%20generic%20and%20biosimilar%20drugs.>