



MAINE PHARMACY
ASSOCIATION
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February 5, 2025

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

RE: Testimony in support of LD 163, An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives and Nonprescription Emergency Contraceptives

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

My name is Amelia Arnold and I am a resident of Winthrop, Maine, a licensed pharmacist employed by Community Pharmacies and the Legislative Liaison for the Maine Pharmacy Association. The MPA is the state pharmacy organization that addresses 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. On behalf of the Maine Pharmacy Association, I am testifying today in support of LD 163 as amended.

Pharmacists serve an important role in providing access to oral hormonal contraceptives and nonprescription emergency contraceptives. With the approval of Opill, the first over the counter birth control medication, hormonal contraceptive is increasingly available in Maine. While this is an important step in healthcare, the cost per pack of around \$19.99 is still a barrier to care. This bill is an important step to ensuring that the access extends to everyone who needs it by ensuring that those who seek to obtain over the counter birth control will still be able to use their prescription insurance.

The Maine Pharmacy Association is happy to answer any questions and work with the committee on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most Sincerely,

Amelia Arnold, PharmD
Legislative Liaison | Maine Pharmacy Association