

Testimony of Linda Caprara  
On behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce  
In opposition to Part SS in

L.D. 210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs & the Committee on Health & Human Services

Good Morning Sen. Rotundo, Sen. Ingwersen, Rep. Gattine, Rep. Meyer and Members of both the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Health & Human Services. My name is Linda Caprara. I am Vice President of Advocacy for the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. We are testifying in opposition to Part SS in L.D. 210, An Act to Make Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

We oppose this section of L.D. 210 because it proposes a .70 cent tax on prescriptions medications in Maine. This is nothing more than a tax on Maine businesses. This tax *appears* to apply to all pharmacies in Maine, community or chain pharmacies, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) pharmacies, long term care pharmacies compounding pharmacies. Here's the problem, only pharmacies that bill MaineCare and ultimately fill a high degree of MaineCare prescriptions will have any chance to recoup some of this tax. So, there will be winners and losers. Smaller pharmacies will undoubtedly lose and potential for closure is real. There is just not enough pharmacies out there as it is. If pharmacies close particularly in rural areas, that will be a huge problem because access won't be readily available.

Again, we urge the Committee to vote No on Part SS in L.D. 210. I would be happy to answer any questions.