

Tracy Robertson
Winthrop
LD 697

March 13, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 697, An Act to Direct the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board to Assess Strategies to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs and to Take Steps to Implement Reference-based Pricing

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

I am Tracy Robertson from Winthrop. I am writing to ask you to support LD 697 to help address high drug costs in Maine.

My child has Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). A medication Corlanor (Ivabradine) was prescribed to reduce the heart rate by changing the heart's electrical activity.

The insurance company denied it and it was going to cost almost \$600 for 60 pills at our local Walgreens. I started researching other ways to obtain the medication. I looked into using the rx discount card and researched online Canadian websites. Prescription costs in the US are astronomical and my adult child cannot afford to pay out of pocket for necessary medications.

Over the course of several months, I worked diligently with my child's doctor's office and provided additional information showing other medications that did not work to finally have the prescription approved. This took months and a lot of time and effort.

I appreciate you listening to me today. Please do what you can to address high drug prices in Maine.

Thank you,
Tracy Robertson