



MAINE PHARMACY
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 5257 | Augusta, ME | 04332

March 13, 2025

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

RE: Testimony Neither For Nor Against 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

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

My name is Amy Downing, I am a resident of Smithfield, Maine, and the Executive Director of 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 neither for nor against LD 697.

Pharmacists in Maine see every day the struggle that some Maine residents have to afford their medication. We agree-prescription drug price relief is an important topic and support the concept of making drug prices more affordable. We fully support bringing more transparency into the complicated pharmacy payment model to shed light onto where precious health care dollars spent on prescriptions are really going. However, we have concerns regarding obstacles that would exist that could lead to accessibility to medication for Mainers and urge caution on making any recommendations or rules that would establish upper payment limits or implementation of reference-based pricing. We fear that lacking a meaningful infrastructure that would allow pharmacies to access these products below the upper limit or referenced rate may lead to a lack of access of medications for some patients.

Pharmacy staff work everyday to obtain medications at the lowest price available for our patients, but the fact is that we are limited and do not have the ability to dictate the purchase price of products from either the manufacturers or the wholesaler. Until there is a dependable supply chain set up so those pharmacies may purchase these drugs below the referenced rate, we would ask that there be no prohibition in place so that we may continue to provide uninterrupted services.

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.

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