

May 14, 2025

To: Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Members of the Committee on Taxation

From: Diane Oltarzewski, resident of Belfast

Re: LD 1734 An Act to Exempt Over-the-counter Medicines from the Sales and Use Tax

Thank you for this opportunity to speak up in favor of LD 1734. Since prescription medications are already exempt from sales tax, this bill would sensibly extend the exemption to over-the-counter medications, including contraception.

We know that nearly 90% of adults agree that **everyone** deserves access to the full range of birth control methods.

With lower-income Mainers struggling to afford everyday necessities, and especially for folks without easy access to a health-care provider, we need to do everything we can to reduce the financial burden for essential medications. Access to birth control is an essential element of reproductive autonomy.

I am heartened by the fact that this bill has bipartisan support, and I urge you to vote unanimously Ought to Pass.

Again, my thanks.