



Your Generics & Biosimilars Industry

Letter in Opposition of LD 8 Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources February 17, 2021

Senate Chair Brenner and House Chair Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

The Association for Accessible Medicines (AAM) is the nation's leading trade association for manufacturers and distributors of generic and biosimilar prescription medicines. Its core mission is to improve the lives of patients by advancing timely access to affordable, FDA-approved generic and biosimilar medicines. AAM members provide more than 36,000 jobs at nearly 150 facilities and manufacture more than 61 billion doses of prescription medicines in the U.S. every year.

POSITION: AAM opposes LD 8 because it would disproportionately impact makers of generic medicines and, as a result, could make access to these more affordable medicines more difficult for Maine patients who rely on them.

Generic medicines drive cost savings for Maine responsible and the healthcare system overall.

In 2018, generics and biosimilars saved the U.S. health care system \$293 billion. Over the past decade, generic medicines have saved U.S. healthcare system over \$2 trillion. Patients thrive with access to generic medicines, both in terms of health outcomes and financial savings. Insured patients benefit from an average copay for generics of only \$5.63, while paying more than \$40 for brand drugs. In fact, 95% of generic prescriptions are filled for \$20 or less out-of-pocket. Generics account for 90% of prescriptions filled in the United States, yet only account for 22% of all drug spending. Generic drugs play a critical role in achieving healthcare savings and enacting legislation that could harm the generic drug market could have serious consequences in Rhode Island.

Maine has a robust statewide drug collection infrastructure that is working.

Although Maine is ranked the 43rd state by population and despite being the most rural state in the nation, Maine has consistently led the nation in drug disposal. The state currently has (90) year-round drug disposal kiosks and a total of 160 locations to drop off old meds located throughout the state providing access to proper disposal. Moreover, 82% of all residents of live within 20 minutes¹ of a site. Locations that do not have easy access to disposal kiosks are located in or near state parks where trash disposal is often limited. A September 2019 study done by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that 70% of the U.S. population lived less than 5 miles from a permanent collection site². Thus, Maine has more than adequate resources in place to effectively collect and dispose of unwanted or unused prescription medicines, rendering the need to establish and operate an entirely new, redundant, and expensive program an unnecessary burden.

I would be happy to discuss AAM's concerns as LD 8 continues to move through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Ashlie Van Meter
Senior Director, State Government Affairs

¹ My Old Meds – Rhode Island Directory, 2020; <https://myoldmeds.com/state-directory/>

² United States Government Accountability Office, Prescription Opioids – Patient Options for Safe and Effective Disposal of Unused Opioids, 2019; <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/701126.pdf>