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***Testimony of Rep. Scott Cuddy in support of  
LD 178, An Act To Reduce Waste of Prescription Medications  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services***

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Joint standing committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, my name is Scott Cuddy and I live in Winterport, Maine. I'm here today to speak in support of LD 178 An Act To Reduce Waste of Prescription Medicine.

This bill is an idea that came to me from a constituent who had experienced several changes to her medications and was left with multiple bottles of unused pills. Each had been a prescription for 90 days, and that contributed to the waste. Her idea was a simple one, and it struck me as promising: limit a new prescription to 30 days. Simple! What could possibly be wrong with that? Well anyone who has been around the legislature for a little while probably has the hair on the back of their neck stand up when they hear that.

I have received comment from several sources since the bill came out. No one that has reached out to me has been in outright opposition. Each has brought a little more light to the issue, pointing out a place that I might not have thought about. To the surprise of no one on this committee, health coverage is very complicated. Planned Parenthood, AARP, Legal Services for the Elderly, and state agencies have all added to my understanding of the topic.

I believe that there is merit to the idea, but I now also recognize the complicated nature of what I originally proposed. I look forward to working with the committee and stakeholders to see if this legislation can produce a better outcome for the people of the state of Maine than our current statutory framework.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.