



53 Baxter Boulevard, Suite 202 | Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 866-554-5380 | Fax: 207-775-5727 | TTY: 877-434-7598
aarp.org/me | me@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmaine
facebook.com/aarpmaine | instagram.com/aarpme

February 23, 2021

Testimony in Support of LD 1, An Act to Establish the COVID-19 Patient Bill of Rights.

Good morning Chairs Sanborn and Tepler and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. My name is Pamela Corcoran and I am an AARP member from Belfast, Maine. I'm testifying today in support of LD1.

Older Mainers and their families have been particularly hard-hit by both the health and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. From nursing home deaths and isolation, to seeking access to new technology to meet healthcare needs, to home care, utility and housing costs and food assistance, many Mainers 50 and older are finding it difficult to stay afloat.

LD 1 would create a COVID Bill of Rights for patients and truly aims to put patients first. It works to address the challenges many Mainers have faced during the pandemic and prepares us for future emergencies. The bill improves access to health care by covering costs for COVID testing and vaccines and ensuring tele-health is a viable option for both practitioners and patients. I appreciate that the bill address out of network costs concerns for patients. At the end of the day, we need to make it as easy as possible for people to get tested for diseases and vaccinated during a global pandemic.

The bill also makes it easier for patients to get a longer-term supply of needed medications during emergencies. This is an important provision for older people who are trying to avoid interacting with others during the pandemic.

I have several high-risk medical conditions that have kept me virtually quarantined for nearly a year. I live in close proximity to a long-term care facility that sadly has experienced many cases and more than a dozen deaths from COVID. I take a prescription that is not, under Maine Care, eligible for more than a 30-day prescription. This proposed legislation would significantly reduce my risk of exposure when I make a trip to the pharmacy for refills. Additionally, the cost to mail my prescription with each refill is not workable within my budget.



This bill also works to ensure a more efficient system for vaccinating residents so that we take advantage of every avenue we can to get to people as quickly as possible.

I hope you will support this important legislation.

Thank you,
Pamela Corcoran, AARP Member
Belfast, Maine

