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**February 23, 2021**

**Testimony by AARP Maine 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 Lori Parham and I am the State Director for AARP Maine. On behalf of our 200,000 members and their families, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the draft amendment presented by Senate President Jackson on LD 1.

AARP has been fighting to protect the health and well-being of Americans 50+ throughout the pandemic. Much more must be done to confront the devastation old adults have experienced over the last 11 months. We believe that LD 1 addresses some of the ongoing challenges faced by 50 Mainers and their families and will ensure protections in are in place for future emergencies as well. These protections include:

- Requiring all state-regulated health plans to cover COVID-19 screening, testing and vaccination before the deductible is met, with no cost-sharing.
- Requiring that state-regulated health plans allow a 90-day fill of prescription medicines or getting rid of restrictions on how often a patient can refill their prescriptions.
- Requiring coverage of telemedicine services (including audio only) when medically appropriate with in-network cost sharing to ensure patients can access treatment without being exposed to COVID-19 in an in-person setting.
- Authorizing certain pharmacists to administer the COVID- 19 vaccine.

The health and economic crisis caused by coronavirus is far from over, and this bill will continue to offer important health and economic protections to older Mainers and their families.

We hope you will vote in favor of the amendment to LD1 submitted by President Jackson.



If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at [lparham@aarps.org](mailto:lparham@aarps.org) or (207) 400-1026.

Thank you,  
Lori Parham, State Director  
AARP Maine

