



**Testimony in Support of**

**LD 686, An Act To Increase Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency**

**Presented by Kimberly Cook**

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As Maine's only nonprofit CO-OP health insurance company, we exist for the benefit of our Members and our mission which is to provide affordable, high quality benefits that promote health and wellbeing.

In a time of rising healthcare costs when pharmaceuticals are a significant percentage of the total amount Americans spend on care, transparency in the price of prescription drugs is of vital importance to consumers seeking to understand the cost of care. Posting information on the Maine Health Data Organization's website in the manner described in LD 686 will provide Maine people with greater knowledge of health care cost drivers and perhaps allow people to make more informed decisions when exploring prescription drug alternatives with their providers.

To ensure this legislation provides maximum transparency, we do recommend a revision to the proposed definition of "Prescription drug". As written, we are concerned it is not clear that prescription drugs administered in a facility or office are included. We recommend the emphasized language be added to the definition at Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §8731, sub-§3-A(C), "By federal or state law, can be lawfully dispensed or administered only on prescription by a licensed health care professional."

We support LD 686 and appreciate the opportunity to share these comments with you. We believe greater transparency in pricing allows Mainers to make more informed healthcare decisions.