

Lori Dumont
Brewer

Chair Sanborn, Chair Tepler, and members of the Committee. Thank you for having me.

Hi my name is Lori Dumont and I am from Brewer, Maine.

Four years ago, the price of insulin changed my life — and my brother's life — forever.

My brother had just learned that his insurance company had stopped covering his insulin. He went to the pharmacy to get new vials and was informed that his short-acting insulin would be \$750 a month and his long-acting insulin would be \$650.

He couldn't afford that with his limited income as a taxi driver and made the difficult decision to start rationing his short-acting insulin to make it last longer.

Three days later, he was found unresponsive in his home after not showing up for work.

His core temperature was 88 degrees. His organs had shut down due to the diabetic ketoacidosis that had occurred without the insulin his body needed.

Miraculously, paramedics were able to revive him and he was airlifted to a hospital in Bangor and admitted to the intensive care unit on life support and not expected to live.

I was at the hospital every day as my brother fought for his life for a month. In addition to being his caregiver and primary advocate, I had to start to make the difficult decisions that accompanied this trauma.

And somehow, after the worst month of our lives, we were still faced with the monumental task of finding a way to pay for the insulin he needed after he was discharged.

All of this trauma and financial distress could have been avoided if insulin were affordable. It has been almost 100 years since insulin was discovered, and there is still no affordable option for people like my brother.

The package of bills you are considering today will help countless families across Maine to afford their necessary prescription drugs. No person should be left rationing their necessary medicine because of its unaffordable price. LD 675 would provide a check on drug company price gouging and protect patients like my brother who ration their drugs because of high prices.

I urge you to vote Yes on LD 675 and this entire package of bills to fix our broken drug pricing system and make drugs more affordable for patients across Maine.