



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testifying in Support of the Making Healthcare Work for Maine Bill Package – April 13, 2021

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Affairs. My name is Craig Hickman and I represent Senate District 14, eleven towns in Southern Kennebec County, in the Maine Senate. I'm here to testify in support of LD 120, LD 675, LD 673, and LD 686 also known as the Making Healthcare Work for Maine Bill Package.

As a former public health professional who has confronted two deadly pandemics in my lifetime, I believe that equal access to preventative and life-saving health care is a fundamental right. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed beyond all doubt that it's beyond time we renegotiate our contracts with one another as a society. It's just not okay that our health care system values some lives more than others. If we all have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, then we must also have a right to our bodily health and well-being. No illness, whether chronic or catastrophic, should force a person into bankruptcy.

Today, I am happy to build on my long legislative record of backing and voting for healthcare policy that works for the people, not big pharma, by supporting the Making Healthcare Work for Maine package. I am proud to stand in solidarity with President Jackson, Senator Claxton who, Majority Leader Vitelli, and Senator Breen as well as all the cosponsors for taking action. Establishing the Office of Affordable Health to prohibit price gouging of life saving drugs, fining pharmaceutical companies for unsupported price hikes, increasing transparency between the costs of prescription drugs and the people, and providing Mainers with diabetes who are in dire need of emergency supplies of insulin are measures to support at any time, but especially during a public health crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and will take any questions you may have.

Labor and Housing Committee, Chair * Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
Craig.Hickman@legislature.maine.gov * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate