

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Heather Sanborn
Chair, Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION COMMENTS ON LD 673

Dear Chair Sanborn and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

The National Community Pharmacists Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on LD 673. NCPA represents the interest of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 21,000 independent community pharmacies across the United States and 54 independent community pharmacies in Maine. These Maine pharmacies filled over 3 million prescriptions last year, impacting the lives of thousands of patients in your state.

It is not uncommon for patients to have difficulty affording their medications, and pharmacists are experts at helping patients find the most affordable option in these situations. Whether it's working with insurers or PBMs to address coverage issues, working with prescribers to identify potential alternatives, or working with drug manufacturers to find patient assistance programs, pharmacists are familiar with the available resources to ensure patients can access their medications.

As such, we know that LD 673 and the Insulin Safety Net Program duplicate existing efforts to make insulin more affordable for patients. With patient assistance programs already in existence, we are concerned that LD 673 will not make it any easier for patients to receive insulin assistance. Moreover, we are concerned that the government-created eligibility forms and protocols will add additional administrative burdens for patients and pharmacists, with no added benefit to the patient.

NCPA supports efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable for patients, but we are concerned that LD 673 will not achieve that laudable goal. We urge you to reconsider creating a duplicative assistance program that may actually create additional burdens for patients seeking assistance and for pharmacies serving those patients. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew Magner, JD
Director, State Government Affairs