



May 12, 2021

The Honorable Senator Sanborn Senate Chair,
The Honorable Representative Tepler House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Cross Building, Room 220
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 1045 An Act To Support Universal Health Care; Oppose

Dear Chair Sanborn, Chair Tepler, Members of the Committee

My name is Sam Hallemeier, Director of State Affairs writing on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA) to oppose LD 1045. PCMA is the national association representing America's pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). PBMs administer prescription drug plans and operate mail-order and specialty pharmacies for more than 266 million Americans with health coverage through large employers, health insurers, labor unions, and federal and state-sponsored health programs.

PCMA opposes LD 1045, which would create universal healthcare by creating the Maine Health Care Plan. PBMs exist to make drug coverage more affordable by aggregating the buying power of millions of enrollees through their plan sponsor/payer clients not just in Maine, but the entire United States. PBMs help consumers obtain lower prices for prescription drugs through price discounts from retail pharmacies, rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers, and using lower-cost dispensing channels. Though employers, health plans, and public programs are not required to use PBMs, most choose to because PBMs help lower the costs of prescription drug coverage.

The State of Maine will need to hire experts and create a sophisticated infrastructure to match private insurance industry's capabilities and solutions. This will come at great cost to taxpayers without any proof of savings. Without competition, there will also be no incentive for the State to continue to innovate. PBMs work to deliver the lowest net cost of drugs for their clients and improve patient outcomes by offering a variety of services and tools such as negotiating price discounts with drug manufacturers, establishing and managing pharmacy networks, in addition to disease management and adherence programs for patients.



In the interest of Maine patients and payers, it is for these problematic provisions noted above that we must respectfully oppose LD 1045.

Sam Hallemeier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Hallemeier', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Director, State Affairs

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