



MAINE PHARMACY
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 5257 | Augusta, ME | 04332

February 14, 2022

The Honorable Heather Sanborn, Chair
The Honorable Denise Tepler, Chair
The Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

RE: Testimony neither for nor against LD 1636, An Act to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Health Coverage and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Amelia Arnold and I am a resident of Winthrop, Maine, a licensed pharmacist employed by Community Pharmacies and a Past-President of the Maine Pharmacy Association. The MPA is the state pharmacy organization that addresses the advocacy, continuing education and professional needs of all licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists in Maine. Our mission is to promote public health by advocating for the profession of pharmacy. On behalf of the Maine Pharmacy Association, I am testifying today neither for nor against LD 1636.

Pharmacists in Maine see every day the struggle that some Maine residents have to afford their medication. We agree- prescription drug price relief is an important topic and support the concept of making drug prices more affordable. However, we have concerns regarding obstacles that would exist with a "referenced rate" and fear with our current drug distribution system it would lead to issues with accessibility for Mainers. As written, health plans and retail pharmacies would be prohibited from purchasing drugs about the referenced rate to distribute or dispense to certain consumers- but lacking a meaningful infrastructure that would allow pharmacies to access these products below the referenced rate may lead to a lack of access of medications for some patients.

Pharmacy staff work everyday to obtain medications at the lowest price available for our patients, but the fact is that we are limited and do not have the ability to dictate the purchase price of products from either the manufacturers or wholesaler. Until there is a dependable supply chain set up those pharmacies may purchase these drugs below the reference rate, we would ask that there be no prohibition in place so that we may continue to provide uninterrupted services.

The Maine Pharmacy Association is happy to answer any questions and work with the committee on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most Sincerely,

Amelia Arnold, PharmD
Vice President of Operations | Community Pharmacies, LLC
Immediate Past-President | Maine Pharmacy Association