

This testimony is in support of LD 1636 An Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing.

Committee on Health Coverage and Financial Services

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bonnie Deane and I live in Appleton, Maine.

My son, Dakota, was diagnosed with severe Crohn's Disease and juvenile arthritis in 2014 when he was 14. When he was diagnosed with the disease, he began receiving Remicade infusions every six to nine weeks to treat the rheumatoid arthritis and severe Chron's Disease. The cost of each Remicade infusion is \$78,000.

Between 2014 and 2021, we had to pay \$10,000 or more toward our deductibles and copays and hit the maximums every year. These medical and insurance expenses have placed our family into deep financial distress. All of the bills have ended up in collections. We signed up for a discount program through the drug manufacturer, but even with that, my husband and I have medical debt in the six-figure range because of the cost of Remicade and other family medical expenses. Our medical debt is more than what we paid for our house. My husband and I are almost 60 and we're going to be dealing with this medical debt for the rest of our lives.

My son thankfully is now on MaineCare. However, my husband and I are still responsible for paying the tens of thousands of dollars of medical debt we accrued because of Remicade. What I want you to understand is that if you're really sick and you need a drug like Remicade to survive, you're going to lose everything — and there's something wrong with that. I don't want anyone else to ever go through what we have gone through. Please support LD 1636, An Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing.

Thank you.

Bonnie Deane
Appleton, Maine