



2/15/2022

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

**RE: LD 1954 AN ACT TO ENSURE ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION CONTRACEPTIVES;
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 1954. 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.

PBMs exist to make drug coverage more affordable by aggregating the buying power of millions of enrollees through their plan sponsor/payer clients. 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.

PCMA opposes LD 1954, which would require health insurers to cover all contraceptive supplies without any deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or other cost sharing requirement. I want to emphasize at the outset of my testimony that PCMA does *not* oppose covering contraceptives at zero cost share. Requiring that plans have an open formulary when it comes to contraceptive supplies signals to manufacturers that they can price these medications at whatever they want with no pressure to lower their prices. If a patient is unable to take a medication on a plan's formulary, the doctor can trigger an appeals process to get the patient on the correct medication at zero cost share. These unfettered price increases of prescription drugs put patients at risk and health plan sponsors in the difficult position of how to handle these high costs. If drug companies are concerned about patients accessing medications, they should simply lower their prices.



In the interest of Maine patients and payers, it is for these problematic provisions noted above that we must respectfully oppose LD 1954. Given the unique environment millions of Maine citizens and thousands of plan sponsors find themselves in, now is not the time to increase the cost of providing reliable and affordable access to prescription drugs.

Sam Hallemeier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hallemeier", written in a cursive style.

Director, State Affairs
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