

February 14, 2022

Greetings, members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

My name is Dr. Erica Magnus. I live in Windham, ME, and I am submitting testimony in favor of LD 1636, *An Act to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing*.

I am very fortunate as, despite having a serious health condition, I only take one prescription drug at this time. According to WebMD, the cost of even the generic of this drug can be as high as \$363.99 for a one month supply. That is well over \$4,000 per year. For many, this represents an impossible amount to consider paying.

When my mother was alive, she wrestled with a whole array of drugs to treat everything from chronic joint pain to high blood pressure to an ongoing risk of seizures. Due to her many allergies to common drugs on the market, she was often forced to make frequent changes to her nine daily medications. Although she was fortunate to have some coverage through Medicare, her anxiety about the costs of her drugs was quite obvious. She even tried to convince me that she could get along without them.

It is common knowledge that other countries pay much less for the same medications we take in the United States. Many Maine families are unable to afford the prescription drugs they need which impacts their overall physical and mental health. It needn't – and shouldn't – be this way. LD 1636 will help to balance this injustice and I strongly urge passage of this important measure.

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