



**Northern Light
Health**

LD 1636 Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing

Testimony

February 15, 2022

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Matt Marston and I am the Vice President of Pharmacy for Northern Light Health. I am here speaking neither for nor against this legislation.

Northern Light Health member organizations include 10 hospitals located in southern, central, eastern, and northern Maine, 8 nursing facilities, air and ground ambulance, behavioral health, addiction treatment, pharmacy, primary and specialty care practices and a state-wide home care and hospice program. Ninety three percent of Maine's population lives in the Northern Light Health service area. Northern Light Health is also proud to be one of Maine's largest employers with over 12,000 employees statewide.

Northern Light Health supports the intent of this bill to help lower prescription drug costs for the public. While similar bills have been put forward in States around the country, accessing medications at the "referenced rate" is not achievable at this time. Neither hospitals nor retail pharmacies can dictate what wholesalers or manufacturers provide us with for pricing, let alone at the same cost as Canadian consumers. We continuously work to obtain medications at the lowest cost available to us and would adopt these lower price points if this lower acquisition cost was made available to us.

We at Northern Light Health would ask that this Committee ensure that payment is not established by third party payers at this referenced rate until these medications are made available for purchase by healthcare providers at a cost below this value in order for us to continue covering the cost of providing these services.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this important legislation. I welcome any questions that you have.

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Northern Light Health

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