

Dear Committee members:

I represent many people living with chronic pain. I am the facilitator of the Southern Maine Chronic Pain Support Group. The only peer support group for chronic pain in our State. We oppose the LD1636. "An Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Cost"

This bill is not just lowering the cost of these drugs it is about how they come up with the way they value people's life. By using what is called Quality-Adjusted Life Year ("QALY")

QALY devalues the lives of people who are elderly or disabled. According to this standard, their lives aren't worth the investment in these medications because they may not live as long as other people.

Each person needs accessibility on medication to maintain their quality of life when living with Chronic Pain. I am very concern this will have a major effect on how Treatment plans are made for people / patients living with chronic pain.

As we all know the State of Maine has a big population elderly and people that are living with Chronic Conditions. We have many road blocks in our Healthcare System. Funding for following issues: Eye Glasses, Hearing adds, Dental care and prescription drugs.

As it is now, Medicare has plans for one of these that is affordable, Drug plans. If a bill like this gets implemented that will not be the case. Do we really want to make it more difficult to provide the needed drugs and Healthcare options available in our State? These are people that have worked hard and contributed to our communities in the State of Maine. They deserve a healthcare system that does not discriminant.

I urge each committee member to do their research on this and see that is it not a bill for Maine People.

Thank you,

Ernie Merritt III

3 Parker Cir.

Saco, ME. 04072



Ernest Merritt  
Saco The Souther Maine Chronic Pain Support Group  
LD 1636

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