



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

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Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Maine State Legislature
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1165 Act to Enhance Cost-savings to Consumers of Prescription Drugs

Testimony in Support of LD1165 submitted by:

Leslie Scales

Executive Director, Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter
(AAFA New England)

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and
Financial Services:

My name is Leslie Scales and I am Executive Director of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter, (AAFA New England). I am writing today on behalf of AAFA New England to submit my testimony in support of LD 1165, An Act to Enhance Cost-Savings to consumers of prescription drugs introduced by Representative Margaret Craven.

Approximately 10% of Maine's population has asthma. The use of prescription medications is an essential part of treatment plans for most of these individuals. Maine has one of the highest rates of asthma in the United States. Children are the most vulnerable and are at the highest risk for poor asthma outcomes. Health disparities disproportionately affect individuals living in underserved communities who struggle with asthma and other respiratory diseases. We know asthma episodes affect job performance, school performance and lead to emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

The adherence to a treatment plan is highly correlated with affordability of prescription medications. LD 1165, sponsored by Rep. Margaret Craven, proposes to enhance cost-savings to consumers of prescription drugs in Maine by requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide rebates directly to consumers at the point of sale. Currently, under Maine law, rebates can go to either the "covered person at the point of sale" or to

the carrier. By removing the carrier option and requiring that the patient receives all of the savings, LD 1165 would allow consumers to immediately benefit from cost-savings. This could make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible, especially for those with conditions such as asthma and allergies that require ongoing medication. By lowering the cost of these medications with rebates, individuals with these conditions could have better access to the medication they need to manage their symptoms, leading to better health outcomes overall.

Reducing the costs and increasing access to medications is necessary to achieve better asthma outcomes for everyone. LD 1165 presents the framework for achieving additional cost savings for asthma medications and will assist patients across the State of Maine who struggle with asthma.

AAFA New England strongly supports this bill and urges you to adopt LD 1165

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leslie Scales
Executive Director, AAFA New England