



Testimony in support as amended:

LD 2203 “An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives”

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify in Support of LD 2203, “An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives” as amended by Representative Arford’s amendment. My name is Kathleen Moneghan. I am a Physician Assistant and Vice President of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants (MEAPA) and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of MEAPA.

Physician Assistants (PAs) along with our physician and nursing colleagues, recognize the importance of reducing barriers to access health care, including prescription and over the counter medications. PAs at minimum are Master’s degree educated, generalist trained medical providers, providing care in all areas of healthcare, from primary care settings, urgent care/emergency departments to medical and surgical specialties. Maine PAs have been rigorously trained, and have ongoing clinical medical educational requirements to maintain national certification and state licensure. These requirements assure PAs possess a high level of competency in medical topics including contraception, reproduction and women’s health.

MEAPA asserts that personal autonomy over one’s body and the healthcare received or refused is a tenant of our professional oaths. By extension, personal autonomy includes assurances of reproductive autonomy, which for decades has served as a guiding principle of established healthcare ethics. Healthcare clinicians are guided by the four pillars of the Hippocratic Oath: beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and respect for the patient’s autonomy. This oath and the ethical standards it creates, govern the intricacies of healthcare decision making and care delivery. Availability for contraceptives over the counter preserves reproductive autonomy while also removing barriers to access to care. We acknowledge along with our colleagues the need for affordable and accessible contraceptives to help promote patient autonomy while also allowing patients ease of access. This is especially true in the adolescent population when looking at prevention of teen pregnancy. Furthermore, increasing contraceptive access would also decrease provider burden as this would no longer warrant a provider visit for a prescription which is essential in the more rural areas of our state.

For these reasons we urge you to vote “ought to pass as amended” on LD 2203.

Thank you,

Kathleen Moneghan, DHA, MPAS, PA-C

MEAPA, Vice President