



Testimony before the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee

LD 1499, An Act To Establish the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board

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Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee—I am Bryan Wyatt, and I serve as Director of Policy and Communications at the Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

I am providing written testimony on behalf of MPCA in support of LD 1499, An Act To Establish the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board. This bill creates an independent Prescription Drug Affordability Board to study drug prices that pose an affordability problem for the state. The Board could set fair limits on how much Maine purchasers, including employers or insurance companies, should have to pay for a specific drug.

Mainers are concerned about high drug prices and their ability to afford the medicine they need.¹ Data from the Maine Health Data Organization² indicates that of the prescription drugs with the largest costs increases in Maine, some are necessary to treat chronic disease including asthma and diabetes. Drugs to treat those and other diseases can be life-saving and without, Mainers who are trying to manage these diseases could become very sick and unnecessarily need more expensive care.

It seems reasonable and timely that we take a closer look at drug pricing and the factors that are causing the cost of prescription drugs to increase. LD 1499 takes a reasonable approach to reviewing drug prices in Maine and establishing a process for setting some limits on what Mainers would pay for the medicine they need.

Thank you and please support LD 1499.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at bwyatt@mepca.org.

¹ http://www.maine cahc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CriticalInsights_MaineSurvey_181115.pdf

² <https://mhdo.maine.gov/tableau/prescriptionReports.cshtml>