



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

**LD 1162, An Act To Further Expand Drug Price Transparency**

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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 1162, An Act to Further Expand Drug Price Transparency, that would require Maine Health Data Organization to develop a plan to collect data from drug makers to help explain how prescription drug prices are set including production, research, and development costs, marketing and advertising costs, and actual costs paid by purchasers. We believe that with rapidly rising drug costs, greater transparency about why the cost of drugs is increasing is important to patients, payers and clinicians who are working to keep their patients healthy.

Mainers are concerned about high drug prices and their ability to afford the medicine they need.<sup>1</sup> Data from the Maine Health Data Organization<sup>2</sup> 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.

Requiring drug makers to provide information about cost increases is reasonable – especially as the cost of life-saving prescription drugs continues to rise and people are forced to make choices between basic needs or their medicine. The more information about why prescription drugs are increasing in costs, the more likely policy makers and other stakeholders can take appropriate steps to address those costs.

Thank you and please support LD 1162.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [bwyatt@mepca.org](mailto:bwyatt@mepca.org).

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.maine cahc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CriticalInsights\\_MaineSurvey\\_181115.pdf](http://www.maine cahc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CriticalInsights_MaineSurvey_181115.pdf)

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