

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
January 23, 2025

Opposing

LD 209, “An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025”

Sponsored by Representative Gattine

Senator Rotundo, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Gattine, and Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Heather Pelletier, the Executive Director and CEO of Fish River Rural Health (FRRH), a community health center with locations in Eagle Lake, Fort Kent, and Madawaska.

FRRH trusted legislation passed last session and we have invested our limited reserves in consultation to ready us for the grant opportunity to stand up in-house pharmacy and save the 15 rural jobs on the line from the 340B takebacks for contract-only pharmacy arrangements.

Numerous positions afforded by 340B savings close the loop for rural patients, such as referral specialists that ensure patients sent for diagnostics or specialty care can receive those appointments, services and records returned to their primary care providers. This is one example, but it also affords population health staff/data analysts that perform clinical chart reviews and ensure patients are not slipping through the cracks of healthcare complexity---looking for date last seen, visits to the ER, hospitalizations, etc. This is important work to keep the cost of healthcare down and maintain the best possible health outcomes for our rural residents. We also have RNs that perform medication reconciliation and ensure patients understand newly ordered medication and ensure patients can access their needed medication to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.

We urge you to re-appropriate the one-time funding approved in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for developing and expanding pharmacy services and access to affordable priced prescription drugs for patients of community health centers.

Sincerely,

Heather

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