

April 11, 2023
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Re: LD1165

Dear Chair Bailey, Chair Perry, and Distinguished Members of the HCIFS committee,

On behalf of thousands of Mainers living with chronic conditions, we wish to thank you for your consideration of LD 1165, the thoughtful questions you posed last week in committee, and the effort you continue to put forth into evaluating the impact of passing this important piece of legislation.

Our group of patient advocates has come together to support LD 1165 because prescription affordability directly impacts our everyday lives. Decisions about our treatment course and choices we are forced to make for our families often hinge on the cost of our lifesaving and life-sustaining medications, putting our quality of life and both short and long-term health outcomes at risk.

Passing negotiated medication savings to patients would alleviate some of the financial burden that comes with a chronic illness, and that is our goal. While copay caps on specific drugs, public programs for certain conditions, and nonprofit and manufacturer assistance may offer help for very targeted populations or therapies, LD 1165 would grant immediate relief for all branded drugs across all diseases, and that would make a tremendous difference to our most vulnerable neighbors.

After last week's hearing shifted its focus from patients to PBMs, manufacturers, and health plans, we hope that our collective voice and plea for assistance will help to drive your consideration and a favorable decision on LD 1165. We have dedicated our missions to understanding and fighting for the needs of patients; we hope that you value our strong support of this bill and work with us to put patients over profits, ensuring better lives for Mainers.

Sincerely,

