

**MaineHealth
Local Health Systems**

Franklin Community
Health Network
LincolnHealth
MaineHealth Care At Home
Maine Behavioral Healthcare
Memorial Hospital
Maine Medical Center
NorDx
Pen Bay Medical Center
Southern Maine Health Care
Synernet
Waldo County General Hospital
Western Maine Health

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MaineHealth Affiliates

MaineGeneral Health
Mid Coast-Parkview Health
New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland
St. Mary's Health System

**Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth
Neither For Nor Against LD 1776
“An Act To Allow Pharmacists To Dispense an Emergency
Supply of Chronic Maintenance Drugs”
Thursday, January 20, 2022**

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Sarah Calder, Director of Government Affairs at MaineHealth, and I am here to testify Neither For Nor Against LD 1776, “An Act To Allow Pharmacists To Dispense an Emergency Supply of Chronic Maintenance Drugs.”

MaineHealth is a non-profit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire through its nine acute care hospitals, physician practices, lab, home health care services, and an integrated continuum of inpatient and community-based behavioral health services. Every day, MaineHealth’s 22,000 care team members work tirelessly to support our vision of “Working together so our communities are the healthiest in America,” by providing safe, high-quality care to the residents in our service area. Consistent with our mission and vision, MaineHealth strongly supports increasing access to affordable and lifesaving health care and medications, but we have also made a promise to our communities to consistently deliver safe and high-quality patient care.

LD 1776 would allow a pharmacist to sell and dispense an “emergency supply” of a “chronic maintenance drug” to a patient with an expired prescription if the pharmacist has attempted, but is unable to obtain authorization, to refill the prescription from the patient’s practitioner.

It is important to note that the [Maine Board of Pharmacy Rules](#) allow non-controlled drugs to be filled for up to 15 months, which is a reasonable amount of time for a patient to pursue a renewal for chronic maintenance medications. To address the instances when a prescription has expired, however, we would urge the Board to update its rules to provide clarification on the practice of providing a bridge supply of medications, and not attempt to address the practice in legislation.

Without a definition of “emergency supply” and “chronic maintenance drug,” we are concerned that this bill will create more confusion than answers for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and could negatively affect patient care.

Additionally, the bill could create an additional administrative burden for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians at a time when we are facing a severe labor shortage and increased demand for pharmacy services.

Again, we urge the Committee to direct the Board to update its rules to provide clarity around this practice of providing an “emergency supply” of a medication, and not attempt to address through legislation. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.