

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Service, my name is Beth Wilson and I am here providing testimony on behalf of MaineHealth in support of LD 603, "An Act Regarding the Practice of Pharmacy."

I am the Chair of Family Medicine at Maine Medical Center and a physician leader of the Maine Medical Center's Primary and Community Care Service Line. In addition to my leadership responsibilities, I also see patients in a community clinic and work alongside my pharmacy colleagues. In my care team model, we rely on my colleagues to help educate and manage our patients for both acute and chronic conditions. In fact, just the other day I sought out Corinn Martineau to assist me in the care of a breast feeding mother from Canada who had a prescription medication for insomnia that is not on the market here in the US. The information she provided to both me and my patient was well beyond what I could have come up with and was extremely useful during our decision-making process. Corinn also helps manage our complex patients with diabetes, substance use disorders, mental health diagnoses, and so much more. It goes without saying that pharmacists like Corinn have also played a key role during the pandemic and have worked tirelessly to bring their expertise to our vaccination clinics.

Pharmacists are invaluable members of our health care team and should be recognized as such. LD 603 amends the Maine Pharmacy Act to define pharmacists and the practice of pharmacy to include the provision of health care services. This change is long overdue in recognizing the value and role of pharmacists in the care of our population here in Maine.

Thank you,

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