

February 15, 2022

Legislative Document No. 1636

Testimony in support of LD 1636 An Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing

My name is Vilene Farina, I live in Lewiston Maine and was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in October 2021. I have reviewed my insurance paperwork and find that the costs of drugs and procedures are in the thousands of dollars. While I have good insurance to cover most of this, I see many people who are struggling to get nutritious food because they have to choose between buying a drug to help get rid of the cancer cells and drugs to keep the cancer cells from growing vs eating. The stress of having to pay such high costs is causing more issues. Many people I have met while waiting to have radiation therapy and some will have to continue into the chemotherapy. Once this terrible process of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy is complete, we need more drugs on a daily basis to keep the cancer away.

We need to get the high costs of these prescription drugs down so that people in Maine can afford to live. So that we don't have to choose between taking a life saving drug and eating or feeding our families. This stress level of knowing that one can not afford the high costs of the life saving drugs causes more disease and then more costs of drugs. Every one of the people who have been diagnosed with Cancer will have to be on high-cost drugs to stay alive. Why should Maine citizens have to pay such high prices to live?