



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

February 25, 2020

Senator Heather Sanborn, Chair
Representative Denise Tepler, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the Committee:

"Drug Prices Are Killing Diabetics." This was a *Washington Post* headline from just over a year ago. Many people in Maine rely on insulin to manage their disease and to stay alive. Yet with the price of insulin doubling in the state in just the past five years, many Mainers are making the difficult decision to ration their medication – or worse yet, to go without. This is unconscionable.

I am pleased to support L.D. 2096 *An Act To Save Lives by Capping the Out-of-pocket Cost of Certain Medications*. This bill would cap the out of pocket costs a person would pay for insulin at \$100 per 30-day supply, regardless of the amount, type, or number of insulin drugs needed to fill a prescription. Colorado and Illinois have passed similar caps in their states and several other states are considering similar approaches.

The high price of prescription drugs is a widespread problem for many people living with a variety of diseases or health issues that require medication. This is a nationwide problem for people whether they are uninsured or have any type of public or private health insurance. Broad reforms are needed at the national level to address this critical issue. Until then, targeted approaches, such as this one offered in L.D. 2096, are needed to assist those in our state regulated insurance markets and to press for federal action.

I strongly recommend the passage of L.D. 2096 so that here in Maine, we can help people manage their disease and live healthier lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills
Governor

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