

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Maine Patients, Electeds and Health Care Advocates Demand Passage of House Bill to Lower Rx Drug Costs**

**Augusta, Maine-** Today, Protect Our Care Maine State Director Vivian Mikhail was joined by Donna Doore, State Representative and three-time cancer patient; Victoria Foley, State Representative and Member of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee; Drew Gattine, State Representative; and Ned Claxton, State Senator and Physician on a press call to talk about the Democrats' newly-introduced bill, the *Lower Drug Costs Now Act* (H.R. 3), and its benefits for Mainers struggling under the weight of increasingly high prescription drug costs.

State Director Mikhail explained that, "the House of Representatives is set to vote on House Resolution 3, the Elijah E. Cummings *Lower Drug Costs Now Act*—legislation that will lower prescription drug costs for thousands of Mainers, augmenting the work the Maine legislature has already done to relieve Mainers of the crushing costs of many crucial prescription drugs, and protecting all Americans from this enormous burden. We thank Representative Jared Golden for his leadership in co-sponsoring this bill. The bill includes prescriptions like insulin and medications used to treat cancer. The Congressional Budget Office reported that this bill would also likely lower premiums for those on private insurance and result in significant savings for the Medicaid program. This simply should not be a partisan issue, even though Republicans continue to stand with the drug companies to oppose this plan to reduce drug prices."

After sharing several stories of family members reliant on prescription drugs they cannot afford- and therefore are forced to ration doses, or forego other basic necessities to pay for the drugs- Donna Doore, a three-time cancer patient and State Representative stated emphatically, "The price of prescription drugs is increasing and increasing. Social Security and Medicare are just not keeping up."

"We can no longer deny the medical impacts of being ill- we have a financial toxicity problem. People are delaying or avoiding care, [...] up to one-quarter for something serious. The importance of passing H.R. 3 cannot be overstated," said State

Representative Victoria Foley, who serves on the Legislature's Health Care, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

You can listen to the full recording of the call [here](#).