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Testimony of Peter S. Millard, MD, PhD in support of LD1006 - An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing

Esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. I am a family physician and epidemiologist. I live in Belfast and have practiced medicine in Maine for the past 30 years. I am testifying on behalf of Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility.

The Maine chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) supports LD1006, a bill that aims to expand Maine's low-income water test subsidy to cover PFAS.

Maine PSR is an organization of health professionals who advocate for policies and practices that eliminate pervasive threats to the safety, security, health and well-being of the people of Maine and the world.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. They have been linked to various health problems such as cancer, thyroid disease, and immune system dysfunction.

Maine DEP currently provides free water filtration systems to households with wells contaminated with PFAS, but the cost of the test is preventing concerned Mainers from self-testing.

All Mainers should have access to clean drinking water.

LD1006 is common-sense legislation which will add PFAS testing to Maine's existing list of subsidized water tests for radon and arsenic, and Maine PSR supports this legislation.

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