



January 23rd, 2025

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Attn: The Honorable Senator Donna Bailey, Chair
Attn: The Honorable Representative Kristi Mathieson, Chair
111 Sewall Street, Room 220
Augusta, ME, 04330

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of NMDP (formerly National Marrow Donor Program)—the nonprofit operating the national registry of volunteer bone marrow and blood cell donors—thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of L.D. 107, which would extend insurance coverage of biomarker testing for all Mainers so that they can get the right treatment at the right time when facing a diagnosis like blood cancer or other disorder.

Biomarker testing, the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker, is often critical in helping doctors confirm that they are giving patients the most effective treatment for their blood cancer or disorder.

Each year, Maine residents are diagnosed with complex conditions, such as blood cancers or disorders, yet many lack access to the latest medical advancements, often due to insufficient insurance coverage. L.D. 107 would ensure that all Maine residents can access biomarker testing when necessary.

While most bone marrow or blood-forming cell transplants NMDP facilitates are to treat cancer, transplants are also a treatment for non-malignant chronic diseases such as aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), and sickle cell disease (SCD). Biomarker testing also helps people with these non-malignant diseases receive the most effective treatment for their specific condition. Biomarker testing can also be used to assess patient risk for and diagnosis of Graft vs. Host Disease (GvHD) – a common and serious side effect of transplant.

Increased access to biomarker testing can help reduce healthcare costs in the state. Biomarker testing can help identify treatments with fewer side effects and higher survival rates, while allowing patients to avoid ineffective or unnecessary treatments. This not only benefits patients but also can lead to cost savings for insurers.

On behalf of NMDP, we ask that the committee support the passage of L.D. 107 to help Maine residents access the right treatment for their blood disease or disorder in the right amount of time.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Simaytis", written in a cursive style.

Anne Simaytis
Senior National Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy
NMDP