



**Testimony of Marge Kilkelly on Behalf of
the Maine Council on Aging to the Committee on Health
Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

**In Favor of LD 107 - An Act to Require Health
Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing**

Submitted January 27, 2025

Greetings, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and the members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am a Policy Consultant for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA). The MCOA is a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 135 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings.

I am testifying in favor of LD 107 An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing.

Biomarker testing is a critical tool for health care providers as they work to develop a road map for individual patient care. Biomarker testing can identify patients at low risk for disease progression, avoid treatments that might not be beneficial or necessary and help determine the most effective treatment plan thus improving survivorship and quality of life.

While Biomarker testing is a critical aspect of cancer treatment; the benefits of Biomarker testing also includes patients who may be suffering from Alzheimer's.

The existing diagnostic process for Alzheimer's includes documenting mental decline or waiting for a specialist appointment which can be as long as two years. In either case the delay in diagnosis means that the disease has already caused damage to the brain.

There are new blood-based Biomarker tests being developed that could be used in a Primary Care office to diagnose Alzheimer's disease. Having this testing readily available and the cost covered by health insurance could provide a diagnosis in a timely manner ruling in or ruling out a diagnosis of Alzheimer's leading to a more effective health care plan which is both cost saving and enhances quality of life.

I urge you to act in support of LD 107.

Thank you for your consideration.