

**Testimony
In Support
of
LD 178 An Act Regarding Coverage for Step Therapy
for Advanced Metastatic Cancer**

Good morning, Senator Donna Bailey and Representative Kristi Mathieson and the esteemed members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Meredith Strang Burgess, a former member and Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee in the 123rd, 124th and 125th Legislature representing the towns of Cumberland, Part of North Yarmouth, Chebeague and Long Island.

I am a small business owner and employer in Maine for the past 38 years and a 25th year breast cancer survivor, who lives with the constant nagging thought that at any time, my cancer may return and plummet me into the Metastatic Cancer world. If ever that were to happen, many current health plans would require that I fail a specific drug treatment before being helped...which is just crazy.

LD 178 prohibits a health plan that provides coverage for advanced metastatic cancer and associated conditions from requiring an enrollee to fail to successfully respond to a different drug or prove a history of failure of a different drug before providing coverage of a prescription drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

This practice simply cannot be allowed to continue. Please see past the insurance companies profits to recognize the many individual Maine citizens dealing with any metastatic cancer and allow them to try different drugs to LIVE.

Thank your consideration and for your service.

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