

Noami B Brautigam
Monroe
LD 582

Testimony of Noami Brautigam, organic farmer, Monroe, Maine

In SUPPORT of LD 582

An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee
March 4th, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee. My name is Noami Brautigam. Together with James Gagne, I own and operate Second Frost Farm in Monroe, Maine. Please accept this testimony in support of LD 582, which would clarify that insurance companies must cover the full cost of the PFAS blood serum bill as an Essential Health Benefit addressing preventative care and chronic disease management.

As a farmer, I have witnessed a number of our friends and farming peers receive the devastating news that their farm, their home, and their bodies are contaminated with PFAS due to state supported spreading of sludge decades prior. I am also anxiously aware this is still the tip of the iceberg and that tragically more and more members of our Maine community (children, firefighters, veterans, farmworkers, people living near landfills, incinerators and airports to name a few) both are currently and also will be in their shoes soon as PFAS contamination revealed. Currently, PFAS exposure has been documented on 82 farmers, in over 600 private wells in 22 town in Maine and in at least 43 Maine schools and daycare facilities.

PFAS exposure can lead to significant health risks including kidney cancer, reduced vaccine response, elevated cholesterol, reduced infant birthweight, and more. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recommends the PFAS blood serum test for people with a known risk of exposure. This often preventatively expensive \$600 blood serum test is necessary to both asses exposure and manage these risks. Members of our community who have had unsafe exposure to PFAS deserve access to every bit of healthcare that can be provided and mandated. The State of Maine needs to do absolutely everything it can to support impacted individuals. This critical bill clarifies that PFAS blood serum tests clearly fit into the category of preventative care and chronic disease management which insurers are already mandated to cover.

I urge you to vote unanimously “Ought to Pass’ on LD 592

Thank you for your time,
Noami Brautigam
Second Frost Farm
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