Testimony of Stephen Beck Marcotte, PE, LG - Lewiston 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 Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Stephen Marcotte. I am a licensed professional engineer and licensed geologist born and currently residing in Lewiston, 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.

I keep up with the world news and published literature on this subject as best as I can.

A recent seminal paper in the *Proceedings from the National Academy of the Science*[1] on PFAS in wastewater and its effects on drinking water found:

- Most (62 to 75%) of the PFAS reported in everyday wastewater is commonly prescribed fluorinated pharmaceuticals.

- Over 75% of the PFAS in ordinary wastewater is not removed by treatment plants.

I believe the benefits of this proposed law for Mainers (and people in general) would far outweigh the negative economic consequences to health insurance companies.

Insurance carriers can surely just recuperate the cost by increasing their profit margin on fluorinated pharmaceutical products.

I urge you to vote unanimously "Ought to Pass" on LD 582.

Thank you for your time,

Stephen B. Marcotte, PE, LG
19 Cherrywood Drive - Lewiston, Maine

[1] B.J. Ruyle, E.H. Pennoyer, S. Vojta, J. Becanova, M. Islam, T.F. Webster, W. Heiger-Bernays, R. Lohmann, P. Westerhoff, C.E. Schaefer, & E.M. Sunderland, High organofluorine concentrations in municipal wastewater affect downstream drinking water supplies for millions of Americans, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 122 (3) e2417156122, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2417156122 (2025).