



**Maine Medical  
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

**In Support Of**

**LD 582 An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing  
for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services  
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD. 582 An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice in support of LD 582.

As trusted medical professionals, physicians help identify health risks linked to environmental factors, educate communities on these risks, and advocate for policies that support a healthier population. It is clear that what affects the environment affects human health. This may be air and water pollution from fossil fuel-burning power plants and vehicle tailpipes causing lung and heart disease,<sup>1</sup> or increased temperatures causing heat-related illnesses and increased tick- and mosquito-borne illness.<sup>2</sup> It may manifest as

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6794003/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/php/effects/vectors.html>

extreme weather events<sup>3</sup> or environmental toxins and plastic pollution causing cancer and endocrine disruption.<sup>4</sup> Physicians, who are sworn to protect the health of our patients, must pay attention to the underlying causes of the illnesses we treat and stand up for policy solutions that reduce these causes.

PFAS is a serious public health crisis. Many studies have linked PFAS exposure to health issues, including cancer, liver damage, immune system disorders, increased cholesterol levels, and more.<sup>5</sup> Despite these health concerns, PFAS is found in many places, including drinking water, carpets, cookware, clothes, and more.<sup>6</sup> Blood testing is an important mechanism for allowing individuals to assess their PFAS exposure levels and seek early medical intervention. Identifying high PFAS levels can help guide preventive care and allow changes to reduce further exposure and mitigate future health risks. Despite these benefits, people who are recommended to get a PFAS blood test by their physician may hesitate to do so if their insurance doesn't cover it because the test can be between 400-600 dollars out of pocket.<sup>7</sup>

We do want to note one thing for this committee to consider. Our members are deeply concerned about rising healthcare costs, so we weighed whether this bill would increase the healthcare costs. We appreciate the work done on the mandate study last session on a similar bill, which noted the cost would be “\$0.10 to \$0.24 on a PMPM basis and less than 0.04% on a percent of premium basis. The estimate did not vary significantly between the individual, small group, or large group markets.”<sup>8</sup> As such, we believe that the benefits to our patients outweigh the minimal cost.

We support LD 582 because PFAS harms public health, and testing coverage is important for all Mainers. Insurance companies failing to cover PFAS blood tests, even after their provider has recommended it, could have significant health consequences for the Maine public.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine’s physicians and public health community about LD 582. We urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

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<sup>3</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9013542/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9562888/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas#:~:text=Increased%20risk%20of%20some%20cancers,and%20For%20risk%20of%20obesity.>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nist.gov/feature-stories/finding-forever-chemicals-wherever-theyre-hiding>

<sup>7</sup> <https://pfas-exchange.org/wp-content/uploads/PFAS-Blood-Testing-Document-May-2022.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/pfr/sites/maine.gov.pfr/files/inline-files/LD-132-PFAS%20-Report.pdf>