

Testimony of Johanna Davis, organic farmer, Freedom 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 Johanna Davis. I am an organic farmer in Freedom 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.

My family and I have lost a lot to the pfas chemical crisis. We lost our farm, our home, our business, never mind our sense of security, trust and hope and now are dealing with seemingly endless health issues. Three and a half years ago I didn't know any of this. I didn't know we'd have to close our business, leave our home and hide from my child the fact that we'd all been poisoned. I don't know what the future holds for me and my family. I don't know what it holds for my neighbors, friends and fellow farmers who have also had to deal with the effects of pfas but I do know that when we have it knowledge is power. I do know that knowing the level of toxic chemicals in my blood, in my husbands blood and in my childs blood was terrifying. However, I also know that once I had that information, those numbers, we were able to receive preventative care and monitoring for high pfas exposure. We were able to make drastic shifts in our lives and now with new test results I can see that our initial blood serum numbers are decreasing.

So many people in our state can not afford to pay for these serum tests. The cost of this test should not be the responsibility of Maine families. Currently I am receiving preliminary treatment that is drastically decreasing these chemicals in my body Im getting tested every three months in order to monitor that decline. The only way I know that this is happening is from having regular blood serum tests...I need this information and frankly the doctors need it too. Anyone who wants to have their blood serum tested for PFAS should be able to and their health insurance should pay for it. Without this so many people will go untested and therefor unmonitored. So many people will not have preventive care they and their children need. Simply because of the cost of a test. The pfas crisis has hit. It is in the open. We all now know the problems that have been unleashed. Please do not let the cost of a blood test incite more unnecessary harm on Maine families and communities.

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

Thank you for your time,

Johanna Davis,
organic farmer,
Freedom Maine