

Kim Michel
Waldoboro
LD 582

Testimony of Kim Michel, farmer
Waldoboro, Maine
March 3, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee,

My name is Kim Michel, I'm a resident of Waldoboro, and I am testifying in support of LD 582, An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. 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 test as an Essential Health Benefit addressing preventative care and chronic disease management.

PFAS exposure in Maine is widespread with at least 82 farms with documented PFAS contamination and over 600 private drinking wells in 22 Maine towns contaminated above the state's interim safe drinking water standard. Maine's PFAS exposed communities are living with extensive medical risk, but the PFAS blood serum test is preventatively expensive for many individuals.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine already recommend the PFAS blood serum test for people with a known risk of exposure (including firefighters and farming communities impacted by sludge). Similar to a mammogram, the PFAS blood serum test is a screening tool for people with a known risk.

Documenting the exposure level allows a doctor to begin screening for - and treating - PFAS linked illness. The test fits into the model of preventative care, which is an essential health benefit that insurance companies are already required to cover the full cost of under the ACA as well as Maine state law.

I urge you to vote unanimously "Ought to Pass" on LD 582. Thank you for your consideration,

Kim Michel
Waldoboro, ME