

**Testimony In SUPPORT of LD 582**  
**An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for**  
**Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**  
**Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee**  
**Submitted by Jacquelyn Elliott | March 4, 2025**

Chair Senator Bailey, Chair Representative Mathieson, and Honorable Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Jackie Elliott and I live in Waterboro. I am a longtime environmental health and justice advocate. My journey as an advocate began decades ago as I grew to understand the connections of the life-long, whole-body disease of endometriosis with environmental exposures to toxics such as dioxin. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for the public record **IN SUPPORT of LD 582**.

This bill clarifies that insurance companies must cover the full cost of blood serum testing for per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as recommended by a provider for medically necessary health care for those who have been subjected to exposures of these toxic chemicals. This test is an Essential Health Benefit to provide preventative care and chronic disease management. PFAS are linked to multiple health impacts including decreased fertility; high blood pressure in pregnancy; increased risk of certain cancers such as breast and testicular cancers; developmental delays and low birthweight in children; hormonal disruption; high cholesterol; and reduced effectiveness of the immune system. Generally, children are more impacted by exposures than adults.

At least **25 Maine schools** and daycare facilities had water supplies test above Maine's interim drinking water standard of 20 parts per trillion, putting **6,650 children and young adults** attending those schools at possible risk of exposure to high levels of PFAS. Overall, **43 impacted schools** and a total of **9550 children** may have been exposed above EPA's draft drinking water standards. EPA's standards are stricter<sup>1</sup> than Maine's regulations.

The dangers from PFAS have been known<sup>2</sup> for decades but only recently has PFAS emerged as a chemical of concern as we face the realities of the risk of harms posed from exposure to these 'forever chemicals' that are ubiquitous<sup>3</sup> in our environment and our bodies. Research is showing there may be no<sup>4</sup> safe level of exposure for these toxics. Those whose

---

<sup>1</sup>Budion, Kaitlyn, April 11, 2024, EPA sets new lower limits for several 'forever chemicals': <https://www.mainepublic.org/environment-and-outdoors/2024-04-11/epa-sets-new-lower-limits-for-several-forever-chemicals>

<sup>2</sup> Kluger, Jeffrey, June 1. 2023, *Companies Knew the Dangers of PFAS 'Forever Chemicals'- and Kept Them Secret*: <https://time.com/6284266/pfas-forever-chemicals-manufacturers-kept-secret/>

<sup>3</sup> PFAS in Maine: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8e6c7664020d48d6bb4f7916e51d005c>

<sup>4</sup> "EPA is taking a signature step to protect public health by establishing levels for several PFAS known to occur individually and as a mixture in drinking water. For PFOA and PFOS, EPA is setting a non-enforceable health-

bodies have been contaminated with these toxic chemicals at significant levels, face futures filled with uncertainty making it indispensable to have the ability to know the blood serum levels of PFAS they are dealing with. The availability of testing and monitoring as part of health coverage is essential. Many private Maine insurers leave patients to cover the full cost of the blood serum test unless a deductible has been reached. **The \$600 per person cost of the serum test is a barrier preventing PFAS-impacted Mainers from assessing their exposure. Mainers need insurer-covered access to the PFAS blood serum test.**

PFAS are widely used and persistent in the environment and Maine citizens are facing the sober reality that they have been subjected to unsafe exposure levels of PFAS including through sanctioned government programs. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection had for many years, allowed waste water and industrial sludges contaminated with PFAS to be spread on farmland as a source of inexpensive fertilizer. Citizens pushed for legislation to cease that practice and LD 1911 was passed<sup>5</sup> and signed into law by the governor May 9, 2022. PFAS contamination of our lands, waters, wildlife, and human bodies has forced Maine into a leadership role to discover the ways to respond<sup>6</sup> to this pollution nightmare.

Our brave farmers were some of the first to raise the alarm to widespread pollution and exposure. There are at least **82 farms so far identified with documented PFAS contamination** and over **600 private drinking wells in 22 Maine towns** contaminated above the state's interim safe drinking water standard. Firefighters, veterans, those who live next to airports or former military bases where aqueous-forming fire-fighting foam (AFFF) may have been used, and those living next to landfills risk significant levels of exposure. The recent AFFF spill in Brunswick demonstrated that serious PFAS contamination can result from often preventable events. Garbage juice – leachate produced by landfills and air emissions<sup>7</sup> from landfills subject nearby communities to increased PFAS exposures.

It must be acknowledged that low-income communities, communities of color, tribal, and rural communities are unjustly exposed to greater levels of toxic pollution and more susceptible to health and financial impacts of PFAS contamination. Such exposures signal the need for regular screening as early detection reveals the necessity to treat PFAS-linked diseases. Accessing a PFAS blood serum test is critical for early detection and management of PFAS-linked

---

based goal of zero. This is called a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG). • This reflects the latest science showing that there is no level of exposure to these two PFAS without risk of health impacts.”

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/drinking-water-utilities-and-professionals-technical-overview-of-pfas-npdwr.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> An Act To Prohibit the Contamination of Clean Soils with So-called Forever Chemicals:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280082389>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ag/pfas/pfas-response.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> Udasin, Sharon, June 26, 2024, *Garbage dumps may be ‘burping’ toxic ‘forever chemicals’: Study*:

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/4740816-garbage-dumps-pfas-forever-chemicals-study/mlite/>

illnesses that can involve chronic illnesses. **Blood serum testing assesses a patient's PFAS exposure and begins treatment and monitoring.**

The **National Academy of Sciences Engineering and Medicine recommends<sup>8</sup> PFAS blood serum tests** for at-risk populations that include communities with documented exposure, people living near farms where sludge may have been spread, people with an occupational exposure risk including firefighters and people living near landfills, incinerators, airports, and military bases. Maine citizens need access to blood serum testing for PFAS that is covered by health insurance.

**PFAS blood serum testing is a matter of ethics and justice** as it provides an opportunity for improved health and quality of life. People who know that they have an unsafe exposure might be able to make lifestyle changes to reduce their interaction with the toxic chemicals. **Screening is key to prevention and treatment of PFAS-linked illnesses and health care coverage should provide this testing.**

Please vote unanimously as Ought To Pass on LD 582. Thank you for considering my comments.

Jackie Elliott

Waterboro, ME

[j.c.elliott@roadrunner.com](mailto:j.c.elliott@roadrunner.com)

---

<sup>8</sup> July 28, 2022, New Report Calls for Expanded PFAS Testing for People With History of Elevated Exposure, Offers Advice for Clinical Treatment:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2022/07/new-report-calls-for-expanded-pfas-testing-for-people-with-history-of-elevated-exposure-offers-advice-for-clinical-treatment>