



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

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March 4, 2025

Senator Donna Bailey and Representative Kristi Mathieson
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

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

Dear Senator Bailey and Representative Mathieson:

My name is Beth Valentine, and I am the Director of the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination. I am writing on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry neither for nor against LD 582, *An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*.

This bill requires carriers offering health plans in Maine to provide coverage for blood testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The Fund to Address PFAS Contamination ("PFAS Fund") was established in April 2022 (7 MRSA chapter 10-D). The permitted uses of the PFAS Fund include but are not limited to "[m]onitoring the health of a person, and member of that person's household, whose agricultural land is found to be contaminated by PFAS" and "[p]roviding medical care to a person found to have blood levels of PFAS greater than the general population or health effects associated with exposure to PFAS."

The law establishing the PFAS Fund created an Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Department regarding the administration of the PFAS Fund to assist farmers impacted by PFAS contamination. In turn, the Advisory Committee established working groups composed of subject-area experts to examine core priority areas. As pertinent here, the Fund's Health Subcommittee worked intensively over a period of seven months to develop, analyze, and recommend strategies for the provision of blood testing, medical monitoring, and mental health support in the short- and long-term for individuals whose drinking water or agricultural land is found to be contaminated by PFAS due to the land application of biosolids.

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Drawing upon the work of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine¹ (NASEM), the Health Subcommittee advised that farmers, their family members and workers, and non-farm residents whose drinking water wells or soils contain PFAS that exceed defined thresholds should consult with a clinician about PFAS blood serum testing. The results of such testing can help to inform clinical care. For instance, clinicians can monitor patients with elevated blood serum levels using routine diagnostic tools (e.g., thyroid function test, lipid panel) to catch and treat conditions associated with PFAS exposure before these conditions become advanced. Individuals with PFAS blood serum levels that exceed 53 ng/ml are candidates for treatment with the drug Cholestyramine which helps to eliminate PFAS from the body.²

Access to PFAS blood serum testing is reflected in Strategy IV.A of the PFAS Fund implementation plan. Under the authority of 01-001 C.M.R. c. 407, the PFAS Fund is presently establishing a program to provide no-cost PFAS blood serum testing to eligible individuals. Notably, not all Mainers are eligible for testing under the PFAS Fund's rules (e.g., people exposed through the recent spill of AFFF in Brunswick, people with occupational exposure, and people exposed through public water systems). DACF's PFAS Fund is simply not designed to provide access to PFAS blood serum testing for all Mainers for whom it is medically necessary.

In a report³ to this committee dated January 2024, the Maine Bureau of Insurance found that the Per Member Per Month (PMPM) cost of total coverage for PFAS blood testing is between \$0.10 and \$0.24, or 0.04% on a percent of premium basis. Accordingly, LD 582 provides a reasonable and fiscally responsible solution by adding coverage for PFAS blood serum testing to the existing suite of outpatient laboratory services currently covered by carriers offering health plans in Maine.

Sincerely,



Beth Valentine, Director
Fund to Address PFAS Contamination

¹ Available here: [Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up |The National Academies Press](#). NASEM recommends that “clinicians should offer PFAS blood testing to patients who are likely to have a history of elevated exposure to PFAS.”

² Adults can request a consult by contacting Dr. Rachel Criswell, Skowhegan Family Medicine, Redington-Fairview General Hospital, 46 Fairview Avenue, Suite 334, Skowhegan, ME 04976, 207-474-6201. For pediatric patients, contact Dr. Abby Fleisch, MaineHealth Pediatric Specialty Care Endocrinology, 887 Congress St., Suit 100, Portland, ME 04102, 207-662-5522.

³ *Review and Evaluation of LD 132, An Act to Require Health Insurance to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*, Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services of the 131st Maine Legislature, January 2024.

Beth Valentine
DACF
LD 582

I will not be able to attend the hearing for LD 582. Please accept this letter neither for nor against the bill.

Respectfully,
Beth Valentine, Director
PFAS Fund