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Testimony in Support
of

LD 1577 An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing

Good morning, Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Affairs.

I am Kathy Javner, I proudly represent District 29 located in the beautiful Katahdin Region.

I am here today to present testimony in support of LD 1577 An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing.

Two years ago I heard the words that left me completely overwhelmed. "You have cancer."

So many questions. So, so many emotions.

The journey was long and arduous.

One of the steps offered to me was testing for Biomarkers. I wasn't quite sure if that was something that I really wanted to endure. However, the appointment was made. It was actually the one piece of my treatment that was able to be done by telehealth.

That appointment was one of the most intriguing pieces of my journey. The specialist was extremely knowledgeable and clearly communicated to me the information needed so that I could make a very informed decision. I was so grateful to have the opportunity to gain a piece of vital health data. Information that would be extremely valuable to our daughter.

They ordered the test and during my next blood draw, they drew an extra sample to be utilized for the Biomarker test.

Then we waited.

When the results were ready, I missed the call from the specialist. She left a voicemail. Which I still have saved on my phone.

She said, "I received the stat breast cancer panel back. It came back normal or negative. With no damages in those high risk cancer genes."

When I did call her back and we had our "follow up", she said, "We have good news and some perhaps not so good news. You are not positive for the breast cancer genes, but then we also do not know why you have a cancer diagnosis."

Even without an answer to the question of, "Why?", I was so relieved to have at least another "piece" of the puzzle in place; even if it wasn't the last piece.

While my Oncology team was discussing the option of Biomarker testing, the insurance question was the key to just how in depth the testing could be done. Once that was determined, they scheduled the full scope of the test.

I urge you to pass LD 1577 so that our cancer warriors can have one less missing piece of the puzzle to their cancer story.

Thank you.