



# Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Advocating the right to quality, affordable  
health care for all Mainers.

P.O. Box 2490  
Augusta, ME 04338  
Telephone: 1-800-965-7476  
Fax: 1-888-214-5233  
[www.maine cahc.org](http://www.maine cahc.org)  
[consumerhealth@maine cahc.org](mailto:consumerhealth@maine cahc.org)

## Testimony in Support of:

### **LD 1502, An Act To Update the Requirements for Health Insurance Coverage for Prostate Cancer Screening**

**April 29, 2025**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of LD 1502, An Act To Update the Requirements for Health Insurance Coverage for Prostate Cancer Screening.

My name is Jakob Giron and I am a Policy Advocate at Consumers for Affordable Health Care, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates the right to quality, affordable health care for every person in Maine.

As designated by Maine's Attorney General, CAHC serves as Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which operates a toll-free HelpLine. Our HelpLine responded to over 7,000 calls and emails this past year from people across Maine who needed help navigating problems with their private health insurance or with accessing affordable health care services. CAHC also serves as the Ombudsman program for Maine's Medicaid program, MaineCare, and helps people apply for and navigate the enrollment process for MaineCare. It is with that background that we provide these comments.

LD 1502 would improve access to evidence-based prostate cancer screening by expanding coverage to include not only a prostate-specific antigen test and digital rectal examination, but also critical and medically necessary follow-up services such as urinary analysis, serum biomarker testing, and medical imaging. To ensure access for those at heightened risk, age restrictions for screenings have been eliminated, instead relying on a physician recommendation based on the latest national clinical guidelines to determine eligibility. This bill also ensures accessibility to these services by prohibiting cost-sharing requirements like deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance for prostate cancer screening services.

Research has demonstrated that even small out-of-pocket costs act as a significant barrier to receiving essential preventive health care. Eliminating cost barriers increases the uptake of those services, particularly among low-income populations.<sup>1</sup> Mainers are struggling to pay their bills, and recent data shows that half of Maine households are currently facing medical debt.<sup>2</sup> We support the requirement that cost barriers to these services be removed, because no person should

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<sup>1</sup> Trivedi AN, Rakowski W, Ayanian JZ. Effect of cost sharing on screening mammography in Medicare health plans. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2008;358(4):375-383.

<sup>2</sup> 2025 report of findings from a survey of Maine voters. Google Drive. (2025, March).  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1of-aZWztHbCJDGZODEqoWEVvYcokHw41/view>

have to choose between receiving preventive care for prostate cancer and paying for life's many other necessities. Furthermore, increasing access to preventive screenings can help avoid more costly care by detecting prostate cancer earlier on before it progresses and becomes more difficult to treat.

Prostate cancer is a leading cause of cancer death among men, and remains a major health concern here in Maine, with an estimated 1,620 new diagnoses and 200 deaths projected in 2025.<sup>3</sup> We know that Black men in the United States experience the highest rates of documented prostate cancer globally and suffer from one of the highest mortality rates in oncology.<sup>4</sup> LD 1502 takes a vital step in addressing this disparity by ensuring no-cost access to essential prostate cancer screenings and aligns eligibility criteria with nationally recognized clinical guidelines. This will help to promote early detection, reduce mortality, and result in more equitable health outcomes.

The implementation of this legislation would provide more access to vital and often lifesaving services for people across the state, and we therefore urge you to provide your support. Thank you for your time.

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<sup>3</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2024. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024.

Wolf, A. M., Wender, R. C., Etzioni, R. B., Thompson, I. M., D'Amico, A. V., Volk, R. J., Brooks, D. D., Dash, C., Guessous, I., Andrews, K., DeSantis, C., Smith, R. A., & American Cancer Society Prostate Cancer Advisory Committee (2010). American Cancer Society guideline for the early detection of prostate cancer: update 2010. *CA: a cancer journal for clinicians*, 60(2), 70–98. <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.20066>

<sup>4</sup> Wolf, A. M., Wender, R. C., Etzioni, R. B., Thompson, I. M., D'Amico, A. V., Volk, R. J., Brooks, D. D., Dash, C., Guessous, I., Andrews, K., DeSantis, C., Smith, R. A., & American Cancer Society Prostate Cancer Advisory Committee (2010). American Cancer Society guideline for the early detection of prostate cancer: update 2010. *CA: a cancer journal for clinicians*, 60(2), 70–98. <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.20066>