



Solutions for a
Toxic-Free Tomorrow

Testimony of Sergio Cahueque, Organizer at Defend Our Health
In Support of LD 1772, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon
Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the
Health of Maine Communities"
Before the Health and Human Services Committee
January 07, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Sergio Cahueque and I am an organizer at Defend Our Health. Defend Our Health's mission is to make sure that everyone has equal access to safe food and drinking water, healthy homes and products that are toxic-free and climate friendly. I am here to testify in support of LD 1772, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities".

As a Maine-based organization that focuses on evidence-based public health policies that can reduce community exposures to toxic chemicals like PFAS and phthalates we urge you to support LD 1772. Our state agency staff deserve funding and support to help Maine lead on evidence-based public health and environmental health policies. This bill would provide dedicated funding for our state health improvement planning processes and a dedicated Maine Commission on Public Health and Prevention that includes expertise on environmental health exposures. Maine's agency staff are exceptional, and having additional experts available to guide and advise their work will allow Maine to continue leading the nation in health-protective, science-based, practical policies and programs that efficiently and effectively improve the health of all Mainers.

Thank you.