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225 Evans Street, South Portland, ME 04106

DATE: March 14, 2022

TO: Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

RE: In Support of LD 2013, "An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State"

Dear Senator Dill, Representative O'Brien and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Kristina Grimaldi, I am a second year student at the University of Maine School of Law. I am writing today to provide my support for "An Act Relating to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination in the State". In particular, I wanted to express support for funding for a medical monitoring program for individuals and their families who have been exposed to alarmingly high rates of PFAS through no fault of their own.

Below are several reasons why medical monitoring is important and necessary.

According to the EPA, "current peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to: reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women; developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes; increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers; reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response; interference with the body's natural hormones; increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity."¹

¹ EPA, Our Current Understanding of the Human Health and Environmental Risks of PFAS, <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas> (Last assessed March 2, 2022)

Medical monitoring programs provide vital ongoing medical testing to detect the potential onset of disease or other adverse health effects from toxic chemical exposures such as PFAS. PFAS, like many toxic chemicals, can cause latent diseases that only manifest years later, thus, it becomes more critical to monitor and prevent the development of disease or other adverse health effects over the long term.²

Medical monitoring is especially attune to exposure to hazardous substances such as PFAS, because those “exposed to toxic substances may not show symptoms of an illness, [but] they may experience sub-cellular or other physiological changes that warn trained medical professionals that the patient has an increased risk of developing a serious illness.”³

Early detection of disease and adverse health effects through medical monitoring prevents more devastating, and more costly, consequences later.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristina Grimaldi

² Megan Noonan, THE DOCTOR CAN’T SEE YOU YET: OVERCOMING THE “INJURY” BARRIER TO MEDICAL MONITORING RECOVERY FOR PFAS EXPOSURE, 45 VT. L. REV. 287, Available at: [h\[ps://lawreview.vermontlaw.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Noonan.pdf](https://lawreview.vermontlaw.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Noonan.pdf)

³ *Id.*; *Ayers v. Jackson Twp.*, 106 N.J. 557, 604, 525 A.2d 287, 311 (1987)