

The Honorable Donna Bailey  
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Cross Building, Room 220  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Anne Perry  
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Cross Building, Room 220  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

May 8, 2023

**RE: LD 1577, Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing – SUPPORT**

Chair Bailey, Chair Perry, and members of the joint committee:

On behalf of all the people we serve in Maine, including the 2,097 residents currently living with End-Stage-Renal Disease (ESRD) we respectfully request your support for Legislative Document 1577 (LD 1577). This important bill will ensure that patients across the state have access to biomarker testing for the purposes of diagnoses and courses of treatment.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) is the nation's leading nonprofit organizations working on behalf of the 37 million Americans living with kidney disease, and the millions more at risk, with an unmatched scope of programs that support people wherever they are in their fight against kidney disease, from prevention through transplant. With programs that address early detection, disease management, financial assistance, clinical research, innovation and advocacy, no kidney organization impacts more lives than AKF. We are also one of the nation's top-rated nonprofits, investing 97 cents of every donated dollar in programs, AKF has also received the highest 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for 19 consecutive years, as well as the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar.

Insurance plans do not consistently cover the cost of biomarker testing, which involves analyzing a person's tissue, blood or other biospecimens to determine the best treatment for them. While frequently used in the field of oncology, kidney disease researchers are beginning to identify new biomarkers that could change the way doctors treat kidney disease.

One of the American Kidney Fund's top priorities is to advocate for health equity—and we believe that healthcare access and affordability are critical components. Action to expand coverage of promising medical testing, including biomarker testing, can help patients and providers in determining the most effective courses of treatment.

We believe that removing barriers to biomarker testing will ensure that all patients—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status or zip code—will benefit from better care. Expanded access to biomarker testing is sound public policy for the state of Maine, which is why we respectfully request your support for LD 1577.

Thank you again for your time and for your careful consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,

**Ari Holland-Baldwin**  
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