

Testimony re: Amendment to LD 2038

The Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics supports the spirit of the amendment to LD 2038 but has the following concerns:

1. There is no provision for reimbursement of processing and handling of the specimens when drawn in the doctor's office. Blood drawing on site markedly increases the numbers of children who will be tested. It costs physicians offices several dollars to have a staff person just process the paper work. Performing the actual test would be another cost. The Bill should have a component that addresses a nominal payment of perhaps \$10 to the physician office for performing each test and processing the material. This payment would offset the cost of a medical assistant, which averages about \$5000 for a practice of 4 physicians per year, just for lead testing.
2. There is no provision to require analysis of data to establish which areas of Maine have children at true risk. The Amendment requires that at least 50% of all Maine children be tested by January 2005. A better use of dollars would be provision for analysis of data and targeted screening of all children in areas of proven risk.

Thank you.

Submitted by Norma Dreyfus, M.D.
Chair, Legislative Committee