



March 4, 2026

Ohio House of Representatives
 77 S. High Street
 Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 8 – biomarker testing legislation

Dear Members of the Ohio House of Representatives,

On behalf of all our organizations and the hundreds of thousands of patients and providers we represent across Ohio, we respectfully request that you pass House Bill 8, which will ensure Ohioans with state-regulated insurance plans, including Medicaid, have coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate.

This is now the third General Assembly that has considered our biomarker testing bill. Over the past few years, we have made a significant number of changes to the bill to address stakeholder concerns, including adding cost-containment measures. This legislation **does not** require health plans to cover all biomarker tests. Coverage is only required for the tests that will provide a benefit to the patient by meeting one of the purposes described in the bill **and** supported by scientific and medical evidence as described in the bill. This coverage does not apply to biomarker tests used for screening purposes. Additionally, health plans will only need to cover one biomarker test when multiple similar tests are available. Finally, legislative intent language was included to prevent test manufacturers from inflating the price of biomarker tests.

The House Health Committee passed HB 8 on February 18, 2026. To date, 22 states have passed legislation to improve access to biomarker testing and ensure more patients have access to the testing they need. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of patients do not have access to the biomarker testing they need because it is not covered by their insurer or the out-of-pocket costs would be too high. A recent study found that 78% of Ohioans are covered by plans that have more restrictive coverage than what is recommended by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN) guidelines for several common cancers.ⁱ On behalf of the patients and health care providers we represent across Ohio, we ask that the House swiftly address this important matter and pass HB 8.

Timely access to guideline-indicated comprehensive biomarker testing will enable more patients to access the most effective treatments for their disease.^{ii,iii} Progress in improving health outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to diagnose and treat diseases. Access to precision medicine often requires biomarker testing, which analyzes biological samples to identify biomarkers (genetic mutations, molecular signatures) that may impact treatment decisions.

Biomarker testing is increasingly important for cancer care – and for the treatment of other diseases. Thirty-seven of the 62 oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing prior to use.^{iv} Biomarker testing is increasingly important to enrolling patients in clinical trials as the number and percentage of cancer clinical trials that involve biomarkers has grown significantly.^v

Access to biomarker testing can help achieve the triple aim of health care including better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and reduced costs. This testing can lead to treatments with fewer side effects, longer survival, and allow patients to avoid treatments that are likely to be ineffective or unnecessary. Studies have found upfront broader biomarker testing results in substantial cost savings for commercial payers^{vi} and decreased expected testing procedure costs to the health plan.^{vii} Some studies have found minimal cost increases as a result of the costs of more effective treatment and prolonged patient survival.^{viii} The purpose of this legislation is to enable more Ohioans to access appropriate testing; currently the cost of biomarker testing – when not covered by insurance – is a significant barrier for many patients.

We respectfully ask that you pass HB 8 as soon as possible. Please reach out to Leo Almeida, ACS CAN Government Relations Director for Ohio at Leo.Almeida@cancer.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
 AdvaMed
 Advocates for Universal DPD/DPYD Testing (AUDT)
 AiArthritis: International Foundation for Autoimmune &
 Autoinflammatory Arthritis
 Aimed Alliance
 ALS Association
 Alzheimer's Association
 American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
 American Lung Association
 American Kidney Fund
 American Parkinson Disease Association
 American Society of Pharmacovigilance
 American Urological Association
 Arthritis Foundation
 Association for Clinical Oncology
 Autoimmune Association
 Biomarker Collaborative
 Cactus Cancer Society
 CancerCare
 Cancer Support Community/Gilda's Club
 Case Western Reserve University – Case Comprehensive
 Cancer Center
 Cervivor, Inc.
 Cleveland Clinic
 Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
 Colon Cancer Coalition
 Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses
 Colorectal Cancer Alliance
 Community Oncology Alliance
 Crohn's and Colitis Foundation
 Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
 End Preeclampsia
 Every Life Foundation
 Exon 20 Group
 Fight Colorectal Cancer
 Global Coalition on Aging
 Global Colon Cancer Association
 Global Liver Institute
 GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
 Head and Neck Cancer Alliance
 Heal Collaborative
 Honor the Gift
 ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
 Infusion Access Foundation
 International Foundation for Autoimmune &
 Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiA)
 KRAS Kickers
 Little Hercules Foundation
 Lung Cancer Research Foundation
 LUNGevery Foundation
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
 Melanoma Research Foundation
 MET Crusaders
 The Michael J. Fox Foundation
 National Marrow Donor Program
 National Organization for Rare Disorders
 National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
 National Psoriasis Foundation
 Nationwide Children's Hospital
 OhioHealth
 Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
 Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
 Ohio Association of Physician Assistants
 Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
 The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
 Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
 Ohio Hospital Association
 Ohio Jewish Communities
 Ohio Life Sciences
 Ohio Nurses Association
 Ohio Osteopathic Association
 Ohio State Medical Association
 The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center –
 James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute
 Ohio Urological Society
 Oncology Hematology Care
 Oncology Nursing Society
 Oncology Nursing Society – Columbus Chapter
 One Cancer Place
 Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
 Patient Empowerment Network
 Patients Rising
 PDL1 Amplifieds
 Premier Health
 The Raymond Foundation, Inc
 Sharsheret
 Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center
 Stupid Cancer
 Susan G. Komen
 Tigerlilly foundation
 Transplant Life Foundation
 Triage Cancer
 UC Health
 University Hospitals
 VHL Alliance
 ZERO Prostate Cancer

ⁱ Wong WB, Anina D, Lin CW, Adams DV. Alignment of health plan coverage policies for somatic multigene panel testing with clinical guidelines in select solid tumors. *Per Med.* 2022;10.2217/pme-2021-0174. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/35118882>)

ⁱⁱ Biomarker Testing Can Direct Care, but Only If Clinicians Perform the Right Tests. Evidence-Based Oncology, February 2020, Volume 26, Issue 2. <https://www.ajmc.com/view/biomarker-testing-can-direct-care-but-only-if-clinicians-perform-the-right-tests>

ⁱⁱⁱ Mikyung Kelly Seo & John Cairns. Do cancer biomarkers make targeted therapies cost-effective? A systematic review in metastatic colorectal cancer. PLOS. September 26, 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0204496>

^{iv} Global Oncology Trends 2021. IQVIA Institute; June 2021.

^v The Evolution of Biomarker Use in Clinical Trials for Cancer Treatment, https://www.personalizedmedicinecoalition.org/Userfiles/PMC-Corporate/file/The_Evolution_of_Biomarker_Use_in_Clinical_Trials_for_Cancer_Treatments.pdf

^{vi} Economic Impact of Next-Generation Sequencing Versus Single-Gene Testing to Detect Genomic Alterations in Metastatic Non–Small-Cell Lung Cancer Using a Decision Analytic Model

DOI: 10.1200/PO.18.00356 JCO Precision Oncology - published online May 16, 2019.

^{vii} Budget Impact of Next-Generation Sequencing for Molecular Assessment of Advanced Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jval.2018.04.1372>

^{viii} Budget Impact of Next-Generation Sequencing for Molecular Assessment of Advanced Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jval.2018.04.1372>