

March 1, 2023

Dear Honorable Legislators,

On behalf of the undersigned patient and provider organizations, we encourage you to support **House Bill 6628 and Sections 45-46 of Senate Bill 976 to expand patient access to biomarker testing in Connecticut and improve quality of life for thousands of people battling cancer and other chronic conditions across the state.**

Biomarker testing is a type of precision medicine that looks for genes, proteins and other substances that can provide information about a patient's cancer or chronic condition. The results can help doctors choose the most effective, lifesaving treatment for an individual patient. Biomarker testing is essential to high-quality, personalized care and can be a real gamechanger for treating serious illnesses, but unfortunately, some patients cannot easily access it.

Insurance coverage has not kept pace with the speed of medical innovation, creating significant barriers to care for our most vulnerable patients. Thankfully, The Human Services committee has raised HB 6288 while the Insurance committee has introduced Sections 45-46 of SB 976 to **increase access to this lifesaving diagnostic tool by ensuring state-regulated health insurance, including Medicaid, will cover this critically important testing.**

Cancer remains a major problem for many people in Connecticut. And without your support for HB 6628 and Sections 45-46 of SB 976, more people will continue to experience disparities in health outcomes. Arizona, Illinois, Louisiana and Rhode Island have already passed laws to increase access to comprehensive biomarker testing—and **it's time for Connecticut to do the same.**

Expanding access to biomarker testing will ensure insureds and Medicaid enrollees in Connecticut get the right treatment at the right time and will ultimately save lives. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and we welcome the opportunity to speak with you further.

Sincerely,





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