



September 10, 2024

Re: Support biomarker testing legislation—the key to unlocking precision treatments.

Dear Chairman Freiman and Members of the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee:

On behalf of all our organizations, we respectfully request that you support legislation to ensure that more New Jerseyans can benefit from biomarker testing—the key to unlocking precision medicine, including targeted therapies. We support A4163, which will ensure New Jerseyans covered by state-regulated insurance plans, including Medicaid, have coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate.

Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to prevent, diagnose, or treat diseases like cancer. Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine, which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship, better quality of life, and reduced costs. 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 before use. Biomarker testing is also increasingly important for enrolling patients in clinical trials, as the number and percentage of cancer clinical trials that involve biomarkers continues to grow significantly.

Unfortunately, there is currently limited and disparate access to biomarker testing. A significant percentage of cancer patients and survivors do not receive biomarker testing because it is not covered by their insurer, or the out-of-pocket costs would be too high. A recent study found that 71% of individuals are covered by plans that have more restrictive coverage than what is recommended by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN) guidelines for several common advanced cancers.

Further, not all communities are benefitting from the latest advancements in biomarker testing and precision medicine. Communities that have been marginalized, including communities of color and individuals with lower socioeconomic status, are less likely to receive biomarker testing. People in rural communities, those covered by Medicaid and those receiving care in nonacademic medical centers are also less likely to have access to biomarker testing.

While most current applications are in cancer, biomarker testing is becoming increasingly important to the treatment of other disease areas including arthritis, other autoimmune

conditions, organ and tissue transplant, rare diseases, and preeclampsia. There is biomarker research happening in many other areas including Alzheimers, other neurological conditions, cardiology and more. Current non-oncology biomarker testing applications could be used to address common comorbidities in cancer patients and survivors and as personalized medicine continues to evolve, non-oncology biomarker testing applications will likely have an increasing role in guiding treatment for patients with and without a cancer diagnosis.

Improving access to biomarker testing and, thereby, access to targeted therapies is an important strategy to reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for patients. This legislation to improve access to biomarker testing in New Jersey would make it possible for more patients to get the right treatment at the right time.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the members of the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee support A4163.

For more information or questions, please get in touch with Quinton Law at [quinton.law@cancer.org](mailto:quinton.law@cancer.org).

Sincerely,

**American Cancer Society Cancer  
Action Network  
AiArthritis  
ALS Association  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Association of Clinical  
Urologists  
American Kidney Fund  
Arthritis Foundation  
Biomarker Collaborative  
CancerCare  
Cancer Support Community/Gilda's  
Club  
CLL Society  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing  
Stomach Cancer  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer  
Empowered  
End Preeclampsia  
Exon20 Group**

**Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Global Colon Cancer Association  
Global Liver Institute  
Go2 for Lung Cancer  
ICAN - International Cancer  
Advocacy Network  
KRAS Kickers  
Lung Cancer Research Foundation  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases  
Association, Inc.  
MET Crusaders  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
Michael J. Fox Foundation  
National Comprehensive Cancer  
Network®  
National Organization for Rare  
Diseases  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
No Stomach for Cancer  
NJ State Society of Physician  
Assistants**

**Oncology Nursing Society**  
**One Cancer Place**  
**Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance**  
**Patient Empowerment Network**  
**Patients Rising**  
**PD-L1 Amplifieds**  
**Sister2Sister NJ**

**Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer**  
**Foundation**  
**Target Cancer Foundation**  
**Tiger Lily Foundation**  
**Triage Cancer**  
**VHL Alliance**  
**Zero Prostate Cancer**