

February 20, 2025

Dear Honorable Legislators,

On behalf of the undersigned patient and provider organizations, we encourage you to support HB 6771 – AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING, as proposed to be amended, to expand access to comprehensive biomarker testing in Connecticut. **Biomarker testing and precision treatments based on patients' biomarkers can lead to better health outcomes and improved quality of life for patients facing cancer and other serious conditions across the state.**

Biomarker testing is a component of precision medicine that looks for biomarkers – molecules like proteins and genetic alterations that can provide information about a patient's cancer or other condition. The results can help doctors choose the most effective treatment for an individual patient. Biomarker testing is essential to high-quality, personalized care for many conditions and can be a real gamechanger for many patients, but unfortunately, not everyone who can benefit from biomarker testing is getting it.

Insurance coverage of biomarker testing has not kept pace with the speed of medical innovation, contributing to significant disparities in who is benefiting from biomarker testing and biomarker-informed treatment. Thankfully, this proposed amendment to HB 6771 will **increase access to this important testing by ensuring state-regulated private insurance plans will cover this critically important testing when it's supported by medical and scientific evidence.**

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 Alzheimer's, 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.

There are significant disparities in health outcomes for Connecticut patients by race, income, and insurance type. And without action to address barriers to care, breakthroughs in personalized treatments could increase these disparities in health outcomes. Already, 20 states, including New York, Texas, Kentucky, and Rhode Island have passed similar laws to increase access to comprehensive biomarker testing—**and it's time for Connecticut to do the same.** Last year, the Connecticut legislature did take important action to ensure such access for Medicaid enrollees in our state.

Expanding access to biomarker testing through HB 6771, as proposed to be amended, will help more people in Connecticut get the right treatment at the right time and avoid therapies that are unnecessary or ineffective for their condition. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and we welcome the opportunity to speak with you further. For more information, please contact Bryte Johnson, Connecticut government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network at bryte.johnson@cancer.org.

Sincerely,

AiArthritis: International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis
ALS Association
ALS United Connecticut
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of Pediatrics – Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
BIOCT
Biomarker Collaborative
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
CBIA Bioscience Growth Council
CLL Society
Coalition of State Rheumatology Orgs
Colon Cancer Coalition
Community Health Center Association of CT
CT Academy of Family Practice Physicians
Connecticut Oncology Association
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
End Preeclampsia
Exon 20 Group

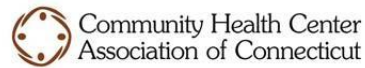
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Global Colon Cancer Association
Global Liver Institute
GO2 for Lung Cancer
Honor the Gift
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
The Jackson Laboratory
KRAS Kickers
Lung Cancer Research Foundation
LUNgevity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
MET Crusaders
Michael J. Fox Foundation
National Oncology State Network
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
NMDP (formerly National Marrow Donor Program)
Oncology Nursing Society
One Cancer Place
Patient Empowerment Network
Patients Rising
PD-L1 Amplifieds
Sharsheret
Stupid Cancer, Inc.
Susan G. Komen Connecticut
Triage Cancer
VHL Alliance
ZERO Prostate Cancer





American Academy of Pediatrics
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