

Gary Feldman, MD
President

November 12, 2024

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The Honorable Bob Hackett
The Honorable George Lang
Senate Insurance Committee
Finance Hearing Room

Re: Support for HB 24 – Medicaid Coverage for Biomarker Testing

Dear Chair Hackett, Co-Chair Lang, and Members of the Ohio Senate Insurance Committee:

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a national organization composed of over 30 state and regional professional rheumatology societies, including our member society that represents providers of rheumatology care in Ohio. CSRO was formed by physicians to ensure excellence and access to the highest quality care for patients with rheumatologic, autoimmune, and musculoskeletal diseases.

On behalf of the CSRO, we are writing to express strong support for House Bill 24, which seeks to provide coverage for biomarker testing. As a pivotal advancement in precision medicine, biomarker tests represent an essential tool for physicians in determining the most effective treatment for individual patients based on unique biological information derived from proteins and genes.

The complexities of rheumatologic conditions often necessitate a lengthy and painful process for patients, typically characterized by a trial-and-error approach to find the right therapy. This not only prolongs patient suffering but also results in increased healthcare expenditures as patients cycle through various treatments that may not be suitable for their specific conditions. By incorporating biomarker testing into medical practice, rheumatologists can identify effective therapies more quickly, leading to timely and personalized patient care.

Biomarkers have the potential to revolutionize how we approach treatment selection, allowing for targeted therapies that can significantly improve health outcomes and quality of life for patients with rheumatologic conditions. As we move toward a healthcare landscape that emphasizes efficiency and patient-centered care, supporting HB 24 is essential to ensure that these innovative diagnostic tools are accessible to all patients who could benefit from them.

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We urge the members of the Senate Insurance Committee to support and advance HB 24, recognizing the profound impact it will have on patient care and overall healthcare costs. Together, we can make strides toward a healthcare model that prioritizes precision, efficiency, and the well-being of patients.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,



Gary Feldman, MD, FACR
President
CSRO



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VP Advocacy & Government Affairs
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