April 8, 2025

Dear lawmakers,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the patients and providers we represent across Nebraska, **we urge your support for LB253**, which will increase patient access to timely and appropriate biomarker testing. This bill was passed by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee with unanimous support. **Comprehensive biomarker testing will enable more patients to access the most effective treatments for their disease and can help achieve the triple aim of health care: better health outcomes, improved quality of life[i,ii] and reduced costs.**[iii,iv,v]

LB 253 will ensure Nebraska patients covered by Medicaid and state-regulated insurance plans have coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate and supported by scientific evidence.

- **The legislation limits the coverage to biomarker testing that is necessary and appropriate to guide patient care.**
- Further, the bill defines the standards of evidence needed for testing to qualify for coverage.

Biomarker testing can help identify more effective and precise treatment, treatments with fewer side effects, and longer survival rates.

- While oncology has led the way in biomarker testing and biomarker-informed care, **biomarker testing is also being used to research and treat chronic diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, pre-eclampsia, arthritis, rare and autoimmune diseases**.
- By ensuring coverage for biomarker testing when it is supported by medical and scientific evidence, LB 253 can help close the gap between the latest breakthroughs and Nebraska patients' access to care.

Not all communities are benefiting from the latest advances in biomarker testing and precision medicine.

- **People in rural communities and those receiving care in nonacademic medical centers are less likely to benefit from biomarker testing**.[vi,vii]
- Insurance coverage is a significant barrier for patients' access to biomarker testing.

Currently, most plans are covering some testing for some patients, but there are gaps between what is covered and what the evidence supports. This legislation is designed to align the evidence that plans follow in determining which patients can access biomarker testing.

This bill does not require all biomarker testing to be covered. It limits both the circumstances when testing should be covered and the evidence that must be demonstrated in order for testing to qualify for coverage. This does not require coverage of biomarker testing for screening purposes, and plans could still require utilization management, including prior authorization.

To date, 21 other states including Iowa, Indiana, Arizona, Georgia and Texas, have passed similar laws aligning insurance coverage of biomarker testing with the latest medical and scientific evidence across disease types.[viii]

If you have questions, please contact Megan Word, Nebraska Government Relations Director with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network at megan.word@cancer.org.

Sincerely,

AiArthritis
Aimed Alliance
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association – Nebraska Chapter
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Lung Association - Nebraska
American Association of Clinical Urologists
Arthritis Foundation
A Time to Heal Cancer Foundation
BioNebraska
Biomarker Collaborative
Cancer*Care*
Cancer Support Community/Gilda's Club Cervivor, Inc.
CLL Society
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)
Colon Cancer Coalition
Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
End Preeclampsia
Exon20 Group
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Global Colon Cancer Association
Global Liver Institute
Go2 for Lung Cancer
Honor the Gift
ICAN - International Cancer Advocacy Network
KRAS Kickers
Lung Cancer Research Foundation
LUNGevity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
MET Crusaders
Michael J. Fox Foundation
National Comprehensive Cancer Network

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
National Organization for Rare Diseases
Nebraska Cancer Coalition (NC2)
Nebraska Hospitals
Nebraska Oncology Society
Nebraska Rheumatology Society
Oncology Nursing Society
One Cancer Place
Patient Empowerment Network
Patients Rising
PD-L1 Amplifieds
Sharsheret
Tigerlily Foundation
Triage Cancer
VHL Alliance
ZERO Prostate Cancer

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[viii] See www.fightcancer.org/biomarkers