



**Alliance for
Patient Access**

February 21, 2023

Representative Lindsey Daugherty
200 E Colfax
Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

Representative Chris deGruy Kennedy
200 E Colfax
Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 23-1110 – Biomarker Testing

Dear Representative Daugherty and Representative Kennedy:

On behalf of the Alliance for Patient Access (AfPA), I urge you to support HB 23-1110, which would expand and simplify health insurance coverage for patient biomarker testing. This bill requires coverage for biomarker testing for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, management and ongoing monitoring of a patient's disease.

Founded in 2006, AfPA is a national network of policy-minded health care providers who advocate for patient-centered care. AfPA supports health policies that reinforce clinical decision-making, promote personalized care and protect the provider-patient relationship. Motivated by these principles, AfPA members participate in clinician working groups, advocacy initiatives, stakeholder coalitions and the creation of educational materials.

Medicine is rapidly moving towards an advanced, precision-based approach. For example, with the advancements of precision medicine in oncology care, doctors can offer cancer patients targeted treatments based on the molecular understanding of their disease, allowing for more personalized, patient-centered care. This can lead to more effective treatment, with fewer side effects – and has been proven to improve outcomes for some types of cancer.¹

This type of individualized treatment is possible by knowing the specific actionable genomic alterations in the patient, which can only be detected through biomarker testing. Advances in precision medicine are being seen in a number of specialties including rheumatology, neurology and mental health. However, **without insurance coverage of biomarker testing, patients cannot benefit from this kind of individualized treatment.**

Biomarker testing can reduce the number of time-consuming and costly tests used to determine a patient's diagnosis, as a biomarker analysis will provide insight as to whether a targeted or specific treatment might work for a specific patient. This could be lifesaving for many patients.

Unfortunately, patients in Colorado face coverage barriers for both biomarker testing and individualized treatments from insurance companies. This can cause delays in care that can be devastating for patients with diseases like advanced cancer. HB 23-1110 will ensure that patients will have equal access, regardless of their disease stage, to biomarker testing, by requiring appropriate

¹ <https://ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/jop.2016.011486?cookieSet=1>

coverage. Promoting early detection and faster diagnosis when possible, can lead to life-saving precision treatment.

HB 23-1110 supports the clinician-patient relationship by allowing clinicians to access appropriate medical tools for their patients and helps ensure patients can access testing to help drive accurate diagnosis and effective treatment decisions. On behalf of the Alliance for Patient Access, I urge your support for HB 23-1110 to ensure patients can access the tests and treatments they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josie Cooper".

Josie Cooper
Executive Director
Alliance for Patient Access

CC: Representative Kyle Brown
Representative Lorena Garcia
Representative Anthony Harstook
Representative Sheila Lieder
Representative Karen McCormick
Representative David Ortiz
Representative Matt Soper
Representative Brianna Titone
Representative Ron Weinberg