



**Oncology Nursing
Society**

Support. Synergy. Strength.

January 27, 2025

Maine Joint Committee on
Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Cross Building, Room 220
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairperson Bailey, Chairperson Mathieson, and Members of the Maine Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and the 242 oncology nurse members in the state of Maine, I am writing to express our strong support for **Maine LD 107**, which requires insurance coverage, including in the MaineCare program, for biomarker testing. We believe that this legislation is critical in ensuring that oncology patients receive the most effective and personalized treatments available.

ONS is a professional association that represents the over 100,000 oncology nurses in the United States and is the professional home to more than 35,000 members. ONS is committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve the quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families.

A biomarker is a biological molecule found in blood, other body fluids, or tissues that is a sign of a normal or abnormal process, or of a condition or disease. It may be used to see how well the body responds to a treatment for a disease or condition.

Biomarker testing is a significant advancement in cancer care and plays a vital role in modern oncology by helping identify the specific characteristics of an individual's cancer. Personalized treatment plans based on biomarker results allow oncologists to match patients with the most effective therapies for their unique cancer profile. This targeted approach not only improves treatment outcomes but also minimizes unnecessary side effects associated with ineffective treatments.

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of biomarker utilization on patient care. Studies have shown that patients receiving targeted therapies based on biomarker testing have improved progression-free survival rates and quality of life compared to those receiving conventional treatments. Additionally, as cancer treatment continues to evolve, the importance of access to



**Oncology Nursing
Society**

Support. Synergy. Strength.

biomarker testing becomes increasingly significant in navigating the rapidly changing landscape of oncological care.

Providing coverage for biomarker testing fosters equity in access to the latest advancements in cancer treatment. It ensures that patients, regardless of their financial situation, can benefit from critical testing that can inform their treatment decisions. Furthermore, by supporting a wider range of treatment options, this legislation empowers the oncology community to provide tailored care, giving them the tools necessary to make informed clinical decisions.

In conclusion, **Maine LD 107** represents a significant step forward in creating a more equitable and effective oncology treatment environment in Maine. We strongly urge the committee to support this legislation to ensure that all cancer patients have access to the biomarker testing necessary for their care.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss our support, please feel free to contact healthpolicy@ons.org

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)