



**Alliance for  
Patient Access**

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Donna Bailey  
State of Maine Joint Standing Committee  
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Committee Chair  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Kristi Mathieson  
State of Maine Joint Standing Committee  
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Committee Chair  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: SUPPORT for LD 107 - Biomarker Testing Coverage**

To the Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Institutions:

On behalf of the Alliance for Patient Access (AfPA), I am writing to urge your support for LD 107, which would expand and simplify health insurance coverage for 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.

Health care 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 patient outcomes for some types of cancer.<sup>1</sup>

This type of individualized treatment is possible by knowing the specific genomic alterations in the patient, which can only be detected through biomarker testing. Advances in precision medicine are also being seen in a number of disease states including rheumatology, neurology and mental health. For example, a recent study highlighted that a simple blood biomarker test was found to be up to 96% accurate in identifying the most important biomarker in Alzheimer's disease pathology.<sup>2</sup> Similarly in rheumatology, biomarkers reveal whether specific medications such as TNF inhibitors would be ineffective for patients who have been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

<sup>2</sup> [doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2023.5319](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2023.5319)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hcplive.com/view/wesley-mizutani-md-sb-496-expands-insurance-coverage-for-biomarkers>

treatment might work for a specific patient. This could be lifesaving for countless patients. However, **without insurance coverage of biomarker testing, patients would face delays in identifying the best treatment options and risk experiencing significantly worse disease outcomes.**

Unfortunately, patients in Maine face insurance coverage barriers for both biomarker testing and individualized treatments. This can cause delays in care that can be devastating for patients with diseases like advanced cancer. LD 107 will ensure that patients will have equal access, regardless of their disease stage, to biomarker testing by requiring appropriate coverage. Promoting early detection and faster diagnosis, when possible, can lead to life-saving precision treatment.

LD 107 supports the clinician-patient relationship by allowing clinicians to access appropriate medical tools for their patients and helping ensure patients can access testing. This will support optimal patient care by driving accurate diagnosis and effective treatment decisions. On behalf of the Alliance for Patient Access, I urge your support for LD 107 to ensure Maine patients can access the tests and treatments they need. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Casey McPherson at [cmcpherson@allianceforpatientaccess.org](mailto:cmcpherson@allianceforpatientaccess.org).

Sincerely,



Josie Cooper  
Executive Director  
Alliance for Patient Access

Cc:

Sen. Joseph Baldacci  
Sen. David Haggan  
Rep. Poppy Arford  
Rep. Michelle Boyer  
Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio  
Rep. Rolf Olsen

Rep. Marygrace Cimino  
Rep. Sally Cluchey  
Rep. Paul Flynn  
Rep. Robert Foley  
Rep. Joshua Morris