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Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and the honorable members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. I am here to testify in favor of LD 107, "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing."

If you've ever known someone who had cancer, you probably wanted them to have the best care available. Today, you can help those fighting cancer get access to the best care available.

Biomarker testing has many benefits, according to the American Cancer Society, Biomarkers can inform one of their risks for cancer. Biomarkers can also help someone find out if they have cancer, and in some cases define what type of cancer they have. The American Cancer Society noted that "Prostate-Specific Antigen Blood Test can be used to screen for prostate cancer, especially in Older men without any symptoms."<sup>1</sup> While these tests often are used to indicate a biopsy as opposed to provide a diagnosis, they alert Doctors that a patient could have cancer before symptoms are spotted. The ACS also notes that Biomarkers are used to detect when a Cancer is returning.<sup>2</sup> Early detection improves the success of cancer treatments, biomarker testing helps detect cancer early, we should be promoting access to these treatments to help people we represent in their fight against cancer.

Another use for Biomarkers can be found in precision medicine. The American Cancer Society Notes, "Precision medicine goes beyond the type and extent of the cancer. Precision medicine uses biomarker and other tests to choose treatments that are most likely to be helpful of each person, while at the same time, sparing them from treatments that aren't likely to help."<sup>3</sup> A study of Cancer survivors conducted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Concluded that Biomarkers changed the treatment of 24% of patients.<sup>4</sup> In the same study, 68% of the respondents claimed that the testing gave their doctors information that helped treatment, and 41% believed they avoided treatment that would not have helped them.<sup>5</sup> Using biomarkers can help determine which treatment will be best used in attacking Cancer, giving doctors more control and saving patients from unproductive treatments.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/diagnosis-staging/tests/biomarker-tests.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/Survivor%20Views%20Biomarker%20Testing%20Polling%20Memo.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

Biomarker testing contributes to success in cancer treatment. However, if insurance does not cover these tests, many people can get priced out. The average cost of these tests to an insurer is around \$224, but it can cost over \$1000 to an individual<sup>6</sup>. Cancer will attack a person whether they have biomarker coverage or not, and Biomarker tests have proven to be a necessary part of cancer treatment. For these reasons, I ask you to vote Ought to Pass on this bill.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fightcancer.org/news/biomarker-testing-and-cost-savings-1#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202022%20analysis,from%20avoiding%20ineffective%20treatments.viii>