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Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Attn: The Hon. Donna Bailey and The Hon. Kristi Mathieson
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 28, 2025

Re: Maine LD 107 titled "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing."

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Members of the Committee,


My name is Ron Lanton and I am Government Affairs Director for the American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc. (AACU)

AACU publicly supports Maine LD 107 titled "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing."

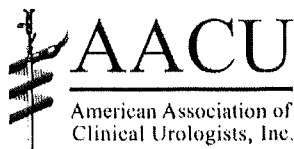
Founded in 1968 by urologists concerned by the government's increasing role in the practice of medicine, the AACU is a professional organization representing the interests of more than 3,700+ member urologists, and urologic societies engaged as advocacy affiliates across the United States. We are dedicated to developing and advancing health policy education as it affects urologic practice in order to preserve and promote the professional autonomy of our members and support the highest quality of care for patients.

AACU is in strong support of legislation that supports increased utilization of biomarker testing. According to the National Cancer Institute:

*"Biomarker testing is a way to look for genes, proteins, and other substances (called biomarkers or tumor markers) that can provide information about cancer. Each person's cancer has a unique pattern of biomarkers. Some biomarkers affect how certain cancer treatments work. Biomarker testing may help you and your doctor choose a cancer treatment for you."*¹

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¹ National Cancer Institute, December 14, 2021 <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/types/biomarker-testing-cancer-treatment>

As we move more into precision medicine and look for other ways to improve outcomes and lower costs, biomarker testing will be a key tool to use to target protocols and most importantly save patients' lives.

Additionally, increased access to biomarker testing will help ensure health equity as people of color along with rural and lower income communities are currently being left behind from the latest advancements in cutting edge healthcare.

The AACU will continue to advocate for this much needed policy along with other industry advocates on this vitally important policy initiative.

We look forward to serving as a resource for your Committee and stand by ready to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Ron Lanton, Esq.


Ron Lanton, Esq.
Government Affairs Director
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.

Peter Bretan, MD

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