



HB 624 Interested Party Testimony
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Senior Director, State Government Affairs
House State and Local Government Committee
Chairman Scott Wiggam
June 3, 2020

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, on behalf of Quest Diagnostics, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 624 concerning reporting and release of COVID-19 testing information. Quest Diagnostics is the world's leading provider of diagnostic information services and serves one in three adult Americans and half the physicians and hospitals in the United States annually. We are particularly proud of our presence in Ohio, which includes approximately 1,100 employees, 6 labs, and approximately 40 patient service centers. With our robust infrastructure in Ohio, we service nearly 18,000 physicians and 73 hospitals, and we have over 600,000 patient encounters annually.

Quest Diagnostics has been at the forefront of response to COVID-19 since we launched our first lab-developed COVID-19 molecular test on Monday, March 9th. Since that time, Quest's testing capacity has increased dramatically to over 100,000 COVID-19 molecular tests per day nationwide. In April, Quest entered the next phase of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic by rolling out IgG antibody testing, which may indicate that a person has been exposed to the virus and may mean that the person has mounted an immune response. We are currently able to conduct more than 200,000 IgG antibody tests per day through various specimen collection sites. The testing platforms we use have received emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA and have been independently validated for accuracy in our highly complex labs.

While we agree that data is a critical tool in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be challenging for clinical labs to comply with various state-based reporting requirements. It is particularly important that labs not be required to provide information to which we do not have direct access. Although Quest Diagnostics is a leading national provider of molecular COVID-19 testing, we do not collect specimens from patients for these tests and therefore do not collect certain data points included in this legislation.

Further, in considering this legislation it is critical to ensure that the state's data infrastructure is capable of accepting the data being requested.

We applaud the legislature's desire to gain greater insights to take action. Quest Diagnostics is committed to Ohio and we continue to work around the clock increase our testing capacity. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 624. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.