

Testimony for House healthcare subcommittee
Bio-Marker testing
5-31-2022

As Patti said, the cancer diagnosis was stunning, to say the least. We were healthy, looking forward to retirement, travel, spending time with grandkids. All of these plans came to a halt that day, and our entire focus was on her cancer diagnosis and treatment options. As I researched the best places in the country to treat cancer, I did what any spouse would do, and what we are all told not to do. I looked up lung cancer on the internet and saw the devastating prognosis of past cases. Months...maybe a year. I didn't understand the many different types of cancer that were being discovered, nor did I remember the many commercials advertising longer life living with cancer.

Patti started thinking about her future and wondering, will I be around for my son's wedding day? Will I live to see any of my grandchildren graduate from high school? Will I get to meet all of my grandchildren, or will some be born after I'm gone?

We are so thankful we found a treatment center so close to home! The James had the ability to perform bioMarker testing that literally has saved Patti's life. Had we not had that testing done, she would have endured surgeries that would have removed a lobe of her lungs, and limited her physical activities. She would have had to endure chemotherapy treatments that would have left her body weakened and susceptible to infection (think COVID). And because the treatments would not have been as effective, the cancer would have continued to invade other parts of her body, most likely her brain and liver, which I believe would have had a deadly result. She would not have been here, in this meeting today.

Instead, we are living a full life. She can still exercise multiple times a week. She can work in the yard doing normal things like mowing, spreading mulch, planting flowers. We can go on long walks and hikes in the mountains of her home state of Washington. And she can help emotionally support other women with cancer, fighting bigger battles than we are, some because they did not receive adequate testing and treatment.

But most importantly, I have attended our son's wedding and danced a very tender Mother/son dance with him. In two weeks, we will be traveling to Seattle to see our first grandchild graduate from high school. And we are praying for our youngest son and his wife to have a baby soon, whether planned or unplanned!

Thank you for listening to our testimony. I hope it moves you to include bioMarker testing coverage by Medicaid and private insurance.

Buddy Busch

