



Proponent Testimony HB 608
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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 608. My name is Gerard Isenberg, MD, and I am President of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio (AMCNO). I am also a practicing gastroenterology physician at a major health system in Cleveland.

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), founded in 1824, is the region's professional medical association and the oldest professional association in Ohio. We are a non-profit 501(c)6 representing physicians and medical students from all the contiguous counties in Northern Ohio. We are proud to be the stewards of Cleveland's medical community of the past, present, and future.

The mission of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio is to support physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promote the practice of the highest quality of medicine. On behalf of our 6,000 members and their patients, I ask you to support HB 608.

We are proud to be members of a coalition, organized by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, featuring over 40 patient and provider organizations across Ohio supporting this critical legislation. HB 608 would ensure that more Ohioans can benefit from biomarker testing—the key to unlocking targeted therapies. This legislation would guarantee Ohioans covered by state-regulated insurance plans, including Medicaid, have coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate.

Biomarker testing, and its ability to allow physicians to use targeted therapies, has been a game-changer in medicine, especially when it comes to the treatment of cancer.

55% of cancer clinical trials currently use biomarker testing. When doctors can connect their patients to the most appropriate targeted therapies using biomarker testing, patients can avoid other treatments that may be ineffective or have additional side effects,

Unfortunately, there are currently significant access barriers to biomarker testing. A significant percentage of cancer patients and survivors do not receive biomarker testing because it is not covered

by their insurer or the out-of-pocket costs would be too high. 73,700 Ohioans are diagnosed with cancer every year. This legislation could have a significant impact on their care.

It is for all these reasons that we stand in support of HB 608. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

