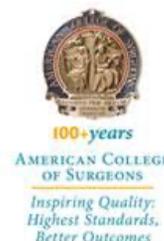


# ACS Chapters | Ohio



November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Honorable Scott Lipps  
Chair, Health Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee—

On behalf of the Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, Ohio Chapter, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 608, sponsored by State Representatives Andrea White and Thomas West. Through the ACS Commission on Cancer, our Fellows are dedicated to improving the survival and quality of life for cancer patients. Passage of HB 608 would aid us in this important effort, and we commend the bill sponsors and cosponsors for bringing this measure forward.

As you know, HB 608 would require health plans and Ohio Medicaid to cover biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment and management of a disease. Biomarker testing is becoming increasingly utilized for cancer patients and other applications are being researched. For surgeons working with cancer patients, biomarker testing is a valuable tool. For example, a recent study published in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* found that microRNA's can be used as a biomarker to predict breast cancer resurgence and mortality.<sup>i</sup>

Four states have already passed biomarker testing legislation with several more joining Ohio in considering this important issue. Incorporating biomarker testing into a cancer patient's course of treatment has been shown to improve outcomes and lower costs. This bill has the potential to be lifesaving for many Ohioans and we urge your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy McDonald, MD, FACS  
President  
Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.news-medical.net/news/20221106/MicroRNA-can-be-used-as-a-biomarker-to-predict-breast-cancer-recurrence-and-mortality-study-says.aspx>