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Proponent Testimony, Ohio House Bill 24 (HB 24)
Ohio House Insurance Committee
March 29, 2023

Dear Chairman Lampton and Members of the House Insurance Committee—

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the providers and patients at Akron Children's Hospital in support of House Bill 24. I want to commend Representative Andrea White and the bill's many cosponsors for bringing this important legislation forward. As you know, House Bill 24 would require health plans and Ohio Medicaid to cover biomarker testing for patients across the state. Biomarker testing is becoming a useful tool in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of cancer and other uses are currently being researched. Biomarker testing has been proven to improve outcomes and reduce costs.

At the Rebecca D. Considine Research Institute at Akron Children's, our clinicians are leading and participating in research related to biomarkers and we believe there are exciting new applications on the horizon. For example, our oncologists are participating in national clinical trials related to biomarkers—

[Biomarkers in Tumor Tissue Samples From Patients With Newly Diagnosed Neuroblastoma or Ganglioneuroblastoma](#)

[Effects of Dexrazoxane Hydrochloride on Biomarkers Associated With Cardiomyopathy and Heart Failure After Cancer Treatment \(HEART\)](#)

As these and other studies show new ways that biomarker testing can benefit patients, HB 24 will ensure that health plans and Ohio Medicaid are providing access to these tests for patients.

Achieving better outcomes for cancer patients benefits Ohio children in two major ways. First, for those children who are diagnosed with cancer, biomarker testing can help direct their treatment and improve their quality of life. And second, for children whose parents are diagnosed with cancer, biomarker testing will hopefully help those parents survive and remain in their children's lives.

Four states have already passed biomarker testing legislation with several more joining Ohio in considering this important issue. Incorporating biomarker testing into a patient's course of treatment has been shown to improve outcomes and lower costs. Ohio House Bill 24 has the potential to be lifesaving for many children and I urge your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.