



Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
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House Bill 8 Proponent Statement
House Health Committee
April 9, 2025

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Minority Member Somani, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on behalf of the Ohio Hematology Oncology Society (OHOS) in support of House Bill 8, the Ohio Biomarker Bill.

My name is Michelle Weiss, and I serve as the Executive Director of OHOS, which represents over 220 oncology and hematology providers throughout the state of Ohio. Our mission is to preserve, promote, and protect access to high-quality cancer care for Ohioans. Our members care for patients in both large health systems and independent community practices, often in underserved or rural areas where timely access to precision diagnostics is critical.

House Bill 8 is a vital piece of legislation that will ensure Ohio patients have access to biomarker testing when it is medically necessary. Biomarker testing is no longer optional or futuristic—it is the cornerstone of modern oncology. These tests help clinicians identify the precise nature of a patient’s cancer, allowing us to match them with targeted therapies that offer the best chance of survival, improved quality of life, and reduced side effects. It is also a key tool for identifying patients who are likely to respond to immunotherapy or qualify for life-saving clinical trials.

Unfortunately, access to biomarker testing is not equal across Ohio. Many patients face insurance denials, inconsistent coverage policies, or lack of provider awareness and infrastructure—especially in rural or underserved communities. These barriers result in delayed or suboptimal treatment, increased health disparities, and higher downstream costs due to ineffective therapies.

By passing House Bill 8, Ohio will join a growing number of states that are recognizing the clinical value of biomarker testing and establishing clear, evidence-based coverage requirements. This bill will ensure that insurance plans, including Medicaid, cover biomarker tests when supported by clinical guidelines and FDA labeling—bringing clarity to providers and timely access to patients.

For our oncology community, this legislation means we can offer every Ohioan, regardless of ZIP code or insurance status, the opportunity for personalized, evidence-based cancer care. It supports innovation, empowers clinicians, and most importantly, gives patients a fighting chance.

On behalf of the Ohio Hematology Oncology Society, I urge you to support House Bill 8 and ensure that Ohio remains at the forefront of cancer care innovation and equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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