March 27, 2023

The Honorable Brian Lampton
Chair, Insurance
Ohio House of Representatives
1 Capitol Sq, Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Support for House Bill 24, Biomarker Testing Coverage

Chair Lampton,

On behalf of the Zangmeister Cancer Center, we ask the House Insurance Committee to consider a vote in favor of House Bill 24 at its March 29 meeting.

My name is Dr. Jeanna Knoble, I am a Medical Oncologist and the Managing Physician Partner for the Zangmeister Cancer Center, where we have served Ohioans living with cancer for over 30 years, in Columbus, Grove City, and most recently Westerville, Ohio. On behalf of all of us at the Center, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for considering HB 24 and the positive impact it would have on our patients.

At the Zangmeister Cancer Center, we strive to provide our patients with a targeted approach to fighting cancer, while at the same time focusing on improving treatment and quality of life. One of the greatest tools we have in this fight is biomarker testing. This method of testing allows our oncologists to assess a patient's tissue, blood or other specimen for more accurate, and cost-effective therapies, often improving patient outcomes and survivorship.

Unfortunately, while biomarker testing has proven to be a vital tool in our fight against cancer, we continue to see insurers delay or deny coverage for patients. Frequently, when our patients are denied coverage, we find they are forced to pay out of pocket and often struggle to locate additional resources or programming that might offset the cost of testing. As we see biomarker testing continuing to drive accuracy in treatment decisions, we believe it is increasingly important that payers recognize the value of this testing.

As a representative of community oncology practices in Ohio, with patients that stand to benefit from this bill, we ask the committee to assist us in our fight against cancer and pass HB 24.

Sincerely,

Jeanna Knoble, MD
Managing Physician Partner
The Mark H. Zangmeister Cancer Center
www.zangcenter.com