



**House Bill 24 – Proponent Testimony**  
**House Insurance Committee**  
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Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda, and members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of House Bill 24, which would require health benefit plans and Medicaid to provide coverage of biomarker testing. My name is Dr. Pauline Funchain, and I lead the Cancer Genomics program at the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Center.

Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center provides complete cancer care enhanced by internationally recognized research efforts, offering the most effective techniques to achieve long-term survival and improve patients' quality of life. As part of the NCCN and NCI-designated Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, more than 700 physicians, researchers, nurses and technicians care for thousands of patients each year. Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center provides a range of services ensuring patients have access to the latest advances in cancer treatment, as well as a range of support programs helping patients navigate the challenges associated with a cancer diagnosis.

Taussig Cancer Center is the hub for Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center. The multidisciplinary cancer building, with 126 exam rooms and 98 treatment rooms, incorporates all services under one roof. By uniting all of our treatment disciplines – surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetics, nutrition, social work and imaging – it provides great benefits for patients, families and clinicians.

A biomarker is a sign of a normal biological process, disease or abnormal function that can be measured in blood, tissue, or bodily fluid. Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker. Cleveland Clinic provides direct biomarker testing, and also contracts with other companies for some technical components of biomarker testing.

While biomarker testing is not exclusive to oncology, it is incredibly useful and is often implemented for colorectal, breast, lung, and skin cancer (melanoma). Approximately 75% of all cancer patients benefit from biomarker testing. Due to the complexity of cancer, each patient requires the right treatment at the right time, and biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies. These targeted treatments can lead to improved survivorship, better quality of life, and reduced costs.

In many cancers, biomarker selected therapy improves overall survival in comparison to chemotherapy. In metastatic lung cancer, 5-year survival rates are improved from 51.1% to 84.8% by using the biomarker-driven therapy erlotinib over standard chemotherapy (Yue et al JCO 2022). National guidelines recommend biomarker testing before starting therapy, because "targeted therapy has been shown to decrease tumor burden, decrease symptoms, and dramatically improve the quality of life for patients with specific somatic genomic alterations." (NCCN guidelines).

In a study conducted at the Cleveland Clinic, patients who received biomarker-driven therapy had longer overall survival than those who received non-biomarker-driven therapy (Sadaps et al JCO PO 2018). Other studies support these findings, showing better tumor shrinkage and



duration of treatment efficacy, technically referred to as response rate and progression free survival, respectively (Schwaederle et al JAMA Oncology 2016).

House Bill 24 will provide proper reimbursement to help our patients get the critical care they need. Once again, Cleveland Clinic supports HB 24 and urges the committee members to also support, as this legislation can help save lives.