



May 7, 2024

Ohio House Committee on Insurance
Attn: The Honorable Brian Lampton, Chair
Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, and members of the Committee on Insurance,

On behalf of NMDP (National Marrow Donor Program)—the nonprofit operating the national unrelated donor registry—thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of H.B. 24, which would give residents in the state access to biomarker testing so that they can get the right treatment for their blood cancer or disorder at the right time.

NMDP supports biomarker testing, which is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker which helps doctors certify that they are getting patients the most effective treatment for their diagnosis. Not everyone in Ohio is benefiting from the latest advancements in medical treatment due in part to a lack of insurance coverage. H.B. 24 will help all residents in Ohio access biomarker testing if and when they need it.

While most bone marrow or blood cell transplants NMDP facilitates are to treat cancer, they are also a treatment for non-malignant chronic diseases such as aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and sickle cell disease (SCD). For example, some SCD patients must undergo biomarker testing to determine suitability and eligibility for clinical trials. If a patient's insurance does not cover biomarker testing, the cost may preclude them from accessing the treatment they need.

Increased access to biomarker testing can help residents save on healthcare expenses. Comprehensive biomarker testing can aid in identifying treatments with fewer side effects, longer survival rates, and allow patients to bypass treatments that are likely to be ineffective or unnecessary. Avoiding ineffective treatments can also result in cost savings for insurers.

We ask that the committee support the passage of H.B. 24 to help more residents in the state access the right treatments in the right amount of time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Simaytis
National Advocacy Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy
NMDP

About NMDP, as a global nonprofit leader in cell therapy, NMDP creates essential connections between researchers and supporters to inspire action and accelerate innovation to find life-saving cures for blood cancers and disorders. Entrusted by Congress to operate the national registry of the world's most diverse donors and with an extensive network of transplant partners, physicians, and caregivers, NMDP is expanding access to treatment so that every patient can receive their life-saving transplant.