



American Urological Association



March 20th, 2025

Hon. Rob Nosse
Chair, House Committee on
Behavioral Health and Health Care

Hon. Cyrus Javadi, and Travis Nelson
Vice Chairs, House Committee on
Behavioral Health and Health Care

Re: Support HB 3421 – Coverage for Biomarker Testing

Dear Representatives Nosse, Javadi and Nelson:

On behalf of the **American Urological Association (AUA)**, representing over 15,000 domestic members, and the **Oregon Urological Society (OUS)**, comprising over 100 urologists in Oregon, we are writing to express our **strong support for HB 3421**, which would ensure the **coverage of biomarker testing** for Oregonians, when medically appropriate, for diagnosis, treatment, management, or ongoing monitoring. Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to prevent, diagnose, or treat diseases like cancer. **Biomarker testing** is an important step in accessing precision medicine, which includes targeted therapies that can lead to **improved survivorship, better quality of life, and reduced costs**.

Biomarker testing is increasingly important for cancer care – and for treating other diseases. A 2021 report showed that **37 of the 62 oncology drugs** launched in the past five years **require or recommend biomarker testing** before use.¹ Biomarker testing is **increasingly important to enrolling patients in clinical trials** as the number and percentage of cancer clinical trials that involve biomarkers has grown significantly.²

Precision treatments in cancers through **biomarker testing** have been shown to **reduce costs and improve quality of life**, which is particularly important to the AUA, OUS, and our members in the prostate cancer space. The use of a urine sample in conjunction with a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test has been shown to **reduce the number of unnecessary biopsies of the prostate by up to 41%, compared to 11% with a PSA test alone**.³ With the American Cancer Society projecting prostate cancer to have the highest rate of new cancer cases in the state in 2025, 2,030,⁴ **reducing the number of unnecessary biopsies could significantly reduce costs to the health care system as well as complications**.

Not all communities benefit from the latest biomarker testing and precision medicine advancements. Communities that have been marginalized, including **communities of color and individuals with lower socioeconomic status**, are **less likely to receive biomarker testing**.⁵ People in rural communities and those receiving care in nonacademic medical centers are also less likely to have access to biomarker testing.^{6,7} **Improving access to biomarker testing** and, thereby, access to targeted therapies is also an important strategy to **reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for cancer patients**. Legislation to

expand coverage of biomarker testing in Oregon would allow more patients to get the right treatment at the right time. For these reasons, **we respectfully request that the committee advances HB 3421** for consideration by the entire legislative body.

For more information or questions, we are happy to serve as a resource.

Sincerely,



Brian Duty, MD, MBA
Chair, State Advocacy Committee
American Urological Association



Sudhir Isharwal, MD, MBA
President
Oregon Urological Society

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