



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Rob Nosse
Chairperson
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3421 – Biomarker Coverage Testing

Dear Chairperson Noose, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

The American Lung Association in Oregon strongly supports HB 3421 to increase coverage of biomarker testing. This legislation will improve access to critical cancer care for patients in Oregon, including those with lung cancer.

The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health association in the United States, currently representing the more than 35 million Americans living with lung diseases, including more than 2,400 living with lung cancer in Oregon. The Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, education and advocacy.

Comprehensive biomarker testing allows doctors to identify abnormalities in a cell's DNA, which in turn helps healthcare providers determine the best course of treatment for cancer patients. This is particularly important when treating lung cancer, as there are currently FDA-approved lung cancer treatments for tumor abnormalities in at least nine distinct genes. Studies show that individuals with lung cancer who have access to biomarker testing and are thus able to receive targeted therapy treatments have better overall chances of survival. Biomarker testing is a crucial part of both cancer care and treatment of other chronic conditions and has been incorporated into many clinical guidelines so that doctors may make the best decisions for their patients' health.

Despite the evidence for the value of biomarker testing, most health coverage plans have been found to be more restrictive than the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guidelines for biomarker testing. Many patients who should receive biomarker testing may be unable to do so because of insurance coverage restrictions and high out-of-pocket costs. Therefore, it is important that HB 3421 increases coverage of biomarker testing and removes some of these barriers to care.

Increasing coverage of biomarker testing will improve health equity in Oregon and make cancer and chronic disease care more affordable and more accessible for patients. The American Lung Association in Oregon urges you to support HB 3421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Nyssen".

Carrie Nyssen
Senior Director of Advocacy in Oregon