



March 20, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Attn: The Honorable Rob Nosse, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
9000 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of NMDP (formerly National Marrow Donor Program)—the nonprofit operating the national registry of volunteer bone marrow and blood cell donors—thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of H.B. 3421, which would increase access to biomarker testing through insurance coverage. When more residents have access to this type of precision medicine, they can receive the right treatment for their blood cancer or disorder at the right time.

Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker. Biomarker testing helps doctors confirm that they are giving patients the most effective treatment for their blood cancer or disorder. NMDP supports coverage for biomarker testing for all patients in Oregon when they need it.

Although 18,000 patients nationwide are diagnosed with a transplant-treatable disease or disorder every year, not everyone is benefiting from the latest advancements in medical treatment, such as biomarker testing, due in part to a lack of insurance coverage. H.B. 3421 will help residents in Oregon access biomarker testing when they need it.

While most bone marrow or blood forming cell transplants that NMDP facilitates are to treat cancer, transplants are also a treatment for non-malignant chronic diseases such as aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and sickle cell disease (SCD). Biomarker testing can also help people with these non-malignant diseases receive the most effective treatment for their specific condition. Biomarker testing is also used to assess patient risk for and diagnosis of Graft vs. Host Disease (GvHD) - a common and serious side effect of bone marrow transplant.

Increased access to biomarker testing can help Oregon residents save on healthcare costs by identifying effective treatments with fewer side effects and longer survival rates. It also enables patients to avoid unnecessary or ineffective treatments, reducing expenses for both individuals and insurers.

On behalf of NMDP, we ask that the committee support the passage of H.B. 3421 to help more residents in the state access the right treatments for their blood disease or disorder in the right amount of time.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Simaytis", written in a cursive style.

Anne Simaytis
Senior National Advocacy Manager, NMDP Government Affairs

