

## Pass SB 954/HB 1754: Reduce Barriers to Biomarker Testing and Precision Medicine

Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker, providing information about an individual's disease that can open the door to precision medicine. Precision medicine includes interventions that target cancer and other illnesses by using information about a person's unique biology and how the illness is showing up in their bodies. This information is then used to select the most effective form of treatment and to more accurately diagnose, prognose, treat, and monitor the person's illness and how well treatment is working.

Testing patients for specific biomarkers is integral to precision medicine, but despite evidence pointing to the benefits associated with biomarker testing, **testing rates lag behind clinical guideline recommendations**. Currently, insurers cover some biomarker testing for some patients, **but coverage for patients is failing to keep pace with innovations in testing and treatment**, leaving some patients behind.

### What does SB 954/HB 1754 do?

The legislation **would**:

- Ensure patients who can benefit from biomarker testing have access to the testing they need. Biomarker testing opens the door to precision medicine which can result in improved survival outcomes and quality of life.
- Establish biomarker testing as a covered benefit in state-regulated insurance plans, including Medicaid, for the diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, and ongoing monitoring of a patient's disease or condition.
- Align biomarker testing coverage with the latest scientific and medical evidence.
- Build upon Pennsylvania's progress in healthcare coverage and authorization law and position the Commonwealth as a national leader in covering biomarker testing.

### What SB 954/HB 1754 does not do:

The legislation **would not** require coverage:

- For the purposes of screening or genetic testing to determine if someone has an inherited mutation that increases their risk of later developing cancer.
- Of all biomarker testing. Biomarker testing is **not** indicated for every patient with cancer or other disease.

## National Landscape

To date, 17 states have passed legislation to increase access to biomarker testing: AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OK, RI, and TX. With your leadership, PA can become the next state.

## Recommendation

Expanding access to biomarker testing would help ensure that patients have access to the most effective treatment for their cancer or illness. ACS CAN urges lawmakers to pass SB 954/HB1754 to make sure that patients across Pennsylvania can access the right treatment, at the right time.