



February 5, 2024

The Honorable Brian Lohse  
Chair  
House Commerce Subcommittee  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 E. Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable David Young  
Vice Chair  
House Commerce Subcommittee  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 E. Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Megan Srinivas  
Ranking Member  
House Commerce Subcommittee  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 E. Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Letter of Support for Biomarker Testing Bill (HF2157)

Dear Health Care & Wellness Committee:

Aimed Alliance is a not-for-profit health policy organization that seeks to protect and enhance the rights of health care consumers and providers. We are writing to express our support for House Bill 2157 relating to insurance coverage for biomarker testing. This legislation, if amended to incorporate a disease-agnostic approach, holds promise in advancing medical diagnostics and tailoring treatment options for individuals facing diverse health challenges.

Biomarker testing plays a pivotal role in gathering personalized information essential for the disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.<sup>1</sup> By analyzing biological specimens such as tissue and blood, practitioners can identify key biomarkers, including genetic and molecular indicators that can help inform treatment decisions and patient outcomes.<sup>2</sup> The expansion of insurance coverage for biomarker testing is a critical step towards improving accessibility to this invaluable diagnostic tool. Identifying specific biomarkers allows health care practitioners to personalize treatments for individual patients, reducing unnecessary interventions and maximizing therapeutic benefits.<sup>3</sup>

While biomarker testing has made substantial progress in fields like oncology, its applications extend beyond cancer diagnosis and treatment. There is a growing body of evidence underscoring its clinical benefits across a diverse range of diseases and chronic illnesses, such as

---

<sup>1</sup> Ali Bodaghi et al., *Biomarkers: Promising and valuable tools towards diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of Covid-19 and other diseases*, 9 *Heliyon* e13323 (2023).

<sup>2</sup> Biomarker Testing, *Oncology Nursing Society*, <https://www.ons.org/genomics-taxonomy/biomarker-testing>.

<sup>3</sup> Biomarker Tests and Cancer Treatment, *American Cancer Society*, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/diagnosis-staging/tests/biomarker-tests.html>.



preeclampsia,<sup>4</sup> cardiovascular diseases,<sup>5</sup> diabetes,<sup>6</sup> neurodegenerative disorders,<sup>7</sup> and autoimmune diseases.<sup>8</sup> For example, the FDA recently approved a biomarker test for preeclampsia, facilitating the identification of pregnant individuals at the highest risk and leading to improved management and outcomes for both mothers and their newborns.<sup>9</sup>

The innovative use of biomarker testing has the potential to improve patient outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and enhance overall quality of life.<sup>10</sup> The broad scope of medical conditions addressed by biomarker testing, as highlighted in the disease-agnostic language of SF2159, promotes innovation and progress across various conditions. We urge you to adopt the language used in SF 2159 to ensure equal and equitable access for all consumers eligible to benefit from this testing and information.

In conclusion, we respectfully request you to recognize the substantial benefits of biomarker testing in enhancing a diverse range of health outcomes and to amend this legislation to use disease agnostic language. We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ashira Vantrees  
Counsel

---

<sup>4</sup> Thermo Fisher, *Scientific Announces FDA Clearance of Breakthrough Immunoassays to Aid in the Risk Assessment of Preeclampsia*, Businesswire (2023), <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230519005071/en/Thermo-Fisher-Scientific-Announces-FDA-Clearance-of-Breakthrough-Immunoassays-to-Aid-in-the-Risk-Assessment-of-Preeclampsia>.

<sup>5</sup> Crystal Ghantous et al., *Advances in Cardiovascular Biomarker Discovery*, 8 *Biomedicines* 552 (2020), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7759775/>

<sup>6</sup> Brenda Dorcely et al., *Novel biomarkers for prediabetes, diabetes, and associated complications*, *Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity* 345–61 (2017), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5565252/>

<sup>7</sup> *Blood Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Implications for the Clinical Neurologist*, 101 *Neurology* (2023), <https://n.neurology.org/content/101/4/172#:~:text=The%20most%20rigorously%20studied%20blood,detect%20AD%20in%20older%20adults>.

<sup>8</sup> Fenghe Zhang et al., *Biomarkers in autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system*, 114 *Frontiers in Immunology* (2023), <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1111719/full#:~:text=They%20are%20easy%20to%20quantify,of%20disability%20in%20clinical%20practice>.

<sup>9</sup> Thermo Fisher, *Scientific Announces FDA Clearance of Breakthrough Immunoassays to Aid in the Risk Assessment of Preeclampsia*, Businesswire.

<sup>10</sup> Biomarker Testing and Cost Savings, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (Jan. 25, 2023), <https://www.fightcancer.org/news/biomarker-testing-and-cost-savings-1#:~:text=Timely%20access%20to%20guideline%2Dindicated,biomarkers%20based%20on%20clinical%20guidelines>.