



February 19, 2025

Connecticut General Assembly
Aging Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 011
Hartford, CT 06106

Via Electronic Correspondence

RE: Letter in Support of House Bill 06711 with Proposed Amendments

Dear Aging Committee,

Aimed Alliance is a not-for-profit health policy organization that seeks to protect and enhance the rights of healthcare consumers and providers. We are writing to express our support for House Bill 06771 with the proposed amendments to ensure that health plans cover biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases when supported by scientific and medical evidence, while also minimizing disruptions to patient care. Expanding coverage for biomarker testing will help advance medical diagnostics and personalized treatment, ensuring that individuals receive the most effective care.

Biomarker testing is a valuable tool used by healthcare practitioners to gather individualized patient data, enabling the tailored prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases.¹ By analyzing biological specimens, like tissue and blood, biomarker testing identifies key indicators like genetic anomalies and molecular markers.² Ensuring coverage for biomarker testing is essential to improving accessibility to this effective diagnostic tool, ultimately maximizing therapeutic benefits and enhancing patient outcomes.³

We appreciate the General Assembly's efforts to expand access to biomarker testing. However, we want to ensure that the legislation provides coverage for testing when supported by scientific and medical evidence. Specifically, we urge the Assembly to amend H.B. 06771 to ensure coverage for biomarker testing when it is supported by medical and scientific evidence. This should include, but not be limited to, labeled indications for FDA-approved or -cleared tests, tests indicated for FDA-approved drugs, warnings and precautions on FDA-approved drug labels, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determinations or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Local Coverage Determinations, and nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements.

Additionally, we recommend that the legislation requires insurers to provide coverage in a way that minimizes disruptions in patient care. It should ensure that patients and prescribing practitioners have access to a clear, readily accessible, and convenient process for requesting

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

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

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



exceptions to coverage policies or adverse utilization review decisions. Furthermore, if prior authorization is required, insurers should be required to approve or deny the request and provide notification within seven days for non-urgent requests and within 72 hours for urgent requests.

In conclusion, we urge for the swift passage of H.B. 06771 with the proposed amendments to ensure that health plans cover biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases when supported by scientific and medical evidence, while also minimizing disruptions to patient care. We appreciate your commitment to expanding access to biomarker testing and strongly encourage the Assembly to incorporate these amendments to increase access to this life-saving tool.

Sincerely,

Olivia Backhaus
Staff Attorney