

H. 136 Biomarkers

Testimony draft for House Health Care Committee:

This legislation is crucial for improving health outcomes and ensuring Vermonters have access to life-saving diagnostic tools through insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

The Need for Biomarker Testing:

Biomarker testing is a powerful tool that helps healthcare providers tailor treatments to a patient's unique biology, increasing effectiveness and reducing unnecessary procedures. It plays a critical role in diagnosing and treating conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune diseases, and rare genetic disorders. Yet, many Vermonters are denied access because their insurance does not cover these essential tests.

Impact on Health Outcomes:

Early detection and targeted treatments save lives. Biomarker testing allows for precision medical treatment, leading to better survival rates and improved quality of life. Without coverage, many patients face delays in diagnosis or ineffective treatments, increasing both health and financial burdens.

The Economic Case for Coverage:

Providing insurance coverage for biomarker testing is a cost-effective measure. By enabling targeted therapies, this legislation reduces avoidable hospital visits and costly ineffective treatments. Investing in preventive and precision care ultimately lowers healthcare costs for the state.

A Path Forward:

By passing this bill, Vermont can join 20 other states in providing coverage for biomarker testing ensuring that all Vermonters, regardless of financial status, can benefit from advancements in medical science.

We urge the legislature to take this opportunity to improve health outcomes, reduce costs, and advance healthcare equity in Vermont.