



American Urological Association

February 22, 2026

Re: Support V S 154 – Coverage for Biomarker Testing

Dear Chairwoman Lyons and Vice Chair Gulick,

On behalf of the American Urological Association, Inc. (AUA) we are writing to express our support for SB 154, which would ensure the coverage of biomarker testing for Vermont residents, when medically appropriate, for diagnosis, treatment, management, or ongoing monitoring. The AUA is a globally engaged organization with more than 22,000 physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice nursing members practicing in more than 100 countries. Our members represent the world's largest collection of expertise and insight into the treatment of urologic disease. Of the total AUA membership, more than 15,000 are based in the United States, including 28 licensed and practicing urologists in Vermont and provide invaluable support to the urologic community by fostering the highest standards of urologic care through education, research, and the formulation of health policy.

Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to prevent, diagnose, or treat diseases like cancer. Biomarker testing is an important step in accessing precision medicine, which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship, better quality of life, and reduced costs. Biomarker testing is increasingly important for cancer care – and for treating other diseases. A 2021 report showed that 37 of the 62 oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing before use.¹ Biomarker testing is increasingly important to enrolling patients in clinical trials as the number and percentage of cancer clinical trials that involve biomarkers has grown significantly.²

Precision treatments in cancers through biomarker testing have been shown to reduce costs and improve quality of life, which is particularly important to the AUA and our members in the prostate cancer space. The use of a urine sample in conjunction with a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test has been shown to reduce the number of unnecessary biopsies of the prostate by up to 41%, compared to 11% with a PSA test alone.³ With the American Cancer Society projecting prostate cancer to have the second highest rate of new cancer cases in the state in 2026, 10,820,⁴ reducing the number of unnecessary biopsies could significantly reduce costs to the health care system as well as complications.

Not all communities benefit from the latest biomarker testing and precision medicine advancements. Communities that have been marginalized, including communities of color and individuals with lower socioeconomic status, are less likely to receive biomarker testing.⁵ People in rural communities and those receiving care in nonacademic medical centers are also less likely to have access to biomarker testing.^{6,7} Improving access to biomarker testing and, thereby, access to targeted therapies is also an important strategy to reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for cancer patients. Legislation to expand coverage of biomarker testing in Vermont would allow more patients to get the right treatment at the right time. For these reasons, we respectfully request that the committee advance SB 154 for consideration by the entire Senate.

For more information or questions, we are happy to serve as a resource.

Sincerely,



Brian Duty, MD, MBA
Chair, State Advocacy Committee
American Urological Association



Hans Arora, MD, PhD
Chair-Elect, State Advocacy Committee
American Urological Association

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