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Advanced Medical Technology Association

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February 13, 2023

Senator Matthew Lesser, Co-Chair
Representative Jillian Gilchrest, Co-Chair
Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2000
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 6628 - AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF BIOMARKER TESTING - Support

Dear Chair Lesser, Chair Gilchrest, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of AdvaMed, I am writing in support of HB 6628 to increase access to biomarker testing by extending coverage to these innovative tests, ensuring patients receive an accurate diagnosis so they can receive the right treatment at the right time to maximize health outcomes.

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) is the world's largest medical technology association and represents over 400 member companies. AdvaMedDx, a division of AdvaMed, represents over 80 manufacturers of *in vitro* diagnostic (IVDs) tests and technologies. Our member companies produce advanced IVD tests and technologies that allow early detection of disease, facilitate evidence-based medicine, improve patient and public health, and enable precision medicine. AdvaMedDx is the only advocacy organization exclusively addressing policy issues facing diagnostic manufacturers in the United States and abroad.

Innovative diagnostic tests precisely measure biological signs called biomarkers. Biomarkers indicate if processes in the human body are functioning normally or if an abnormal condition or disease exists, allowing doctors to better understand how this affects their patient. By combining the data from molecular and other diagnostic tests with an individual's medical history and clinical symptoms, healthcare providers can develop targeted management and/or prevention plans for that patient. When used in the treatment of cancer, precision medicine incorporates specific information about a person's cancer to inform screening, diagnosis, prognosis, therapy selection, and to monitor how well therapy is working.

Advances in biomarker testing and cancer treatments now allow for targeted cancer therapies that can improve patient survival and quality of life. Biomarkers are also used to support clinical decision-making in numerous other disease areas, including cardiology, neurology, infectious diseases, and autoimmune disorders.

Testing patients for specific biomarkers is integral to precision medicine in cancer care, but despite evidence pointing to the benefits, testing rates lag behind clinical guideline recommendations. Research shows that there are socioeconomic inequities in biomarker testing and targeted therapy utilization across cancer types.

Health care coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with scientific advancements. House Bill 6628 will require state-regulated plans to cover comprehensive biomarker testing when supported by medical and scientific evidence, including nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines. **Timely access to appropriate biomarker testing will result in better health outcomes, advance health equity, and reduce costs**. For these reasons, AdvaMed strongly supports HB 6628.

Sincerely,

Roxy Kozyckyj
Director, State Government and Regional Affairs
Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)