

Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

November 29th, 2022

The Honorable Scott Lipps
Chairman, Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 608, sponsored by State Representatives West and White.

This legislation would require health plans and Ohio Medicaid to cover biomarker testing for patients across the state. Biomarker testing is becoming a useful tool in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of cancer and other uses are currently being researched. Biomarker testing has been proven to improve outcomes and reduce costs.

Better outcomes for cancer patients benefits Ohio children in two major ways. First, for those children who are diagnosed with cancer, biomarker testing can help improve their treatment and quality of life. And second, for children whose parents are diagnosed with cancer, biomarker testing will hopefully help those parents survive and remain in their children's lives.

It is my hope that the committee will favorably report HB 608 today. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Chapter

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