



Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Dear Representative,

I am writing today on behalf of the Global Colon Cancer Association to ask that you support HF 1978 (Reyer) HF 1978 would increase access to biomarker testing for more Minnesotans.

Biomarker testing is an essential step to accessing precision medicine that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for patients. A biomarker is a molecular signature, like protein or gene, that can provide insights into medical conditions or diseases like cancer, arthritis, mental health, and more.

***The results of a biomarker test gives providers knowledge*** that can guide a patient's treatment plan, potentially providing access to targeted treatment that can ***improve disease outcomes, quality of life for patients, and reduced costs***. In some cases, paying upfront for comprehensive testing can result in overall savings in treatment costs.

However, insurance coverage is failing to keep pace with innovations and advancements in treatment for serious diseases and conditions. When biomarker testing is not covered by insurance, patients can be on the hook for hundreds or even thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs. This bill would require state-regulated health insurance plans to cover comprehensive biomarker testing when supported by medical and scientific evidence.

At the Global Colon Cancer Association, we believe that where you live should not determine your ability to prevent or survive colorectal cancer. Access to biomarker testing is critically important to ensuring that everyone has the same chance to fight their disease.

Please help make sure more Minnesotans can get connected to the right treatment at the right time. I hope that you will support this bill.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Sheahan".

Nicole Sheahan  
President  
Global Colon Cancer Association