



March 7, 2023

Chairwoman Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk,  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc. voted to support House Bill 1217 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Biomarker Testing. **This bill is on the 2023 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

This bill will require the State's Medical Assistance Program, certain insurances, nonprofit health service plans, health organizations, and managed care organizations to administer adequate coverage for biomarker testing that is supported by medical evidence. House Bill 1217 will also establish certain requirements regarding deductibles, copayments, and utilization review.

Today, members of the Black community are disproportionately impacted by cancer and are often diagnosed at a later stage, resulting in a higher mortality rate. There are many present disparities in cancer detection, and this bill aims to remedy and close the financial gap impacting many Black Marylanders. For many, this bill will prove to be a true saving grace, in that it aids and alleviates the strain often associated with providing coverage for necessary testing. If implemented, this legislation will provide resources and access to fair and equal coverage for those who need it most, saving the lives of many Marylanders. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 1217 and asks that you vote favorably on this bill.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland