



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: March 9, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1217 – *Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Biomarker Testing*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) writes in **support** of *House Bill 1217: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Biomarker Testing*. We are a community of over 700 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland's innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education.

House Bill 1217 requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and other insurers to provide coverage for biomarker testing in certain circumstances. Due to the innovative life science companies that produce such tests, biomarker testing has become a crucial method to detect diseases and conditions earlier. This is important because treatment is often more effective when a condition is detected earlier.

Unfortunately, the out-of-pocket costs for biomarker testing can be prohibitively expensive for most people. That is why it is so important for Medicaid and other insurers to provide coverage for this testing. If passed, this legislation will expand access to this potentially life-saving testing to all Marylanders.

We urge a favorable report.