

The Honorable Melony Griffith
3E Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

March 14, 2023

RE: SB 805, Required Coverage for Biomarker Testing – SUPPORT

Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee:

On behalf of all the people we serve in Maryland, including the 17,739 residents currently living with End-Stage-Renal Disease (ESRD) we respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 805. This important bill would ensure that patients facing chronic diseases, such as kidney disease, are able to access and afford biomarker testing when necessary.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) is the nation's leading nonprofit organizations working on behalf of the 37 million Americans living with kidney disease, and the millions more at risk, with an unmatched scope of programs that support people wherever they are in their fight against kidney disease, from prevention through transplant. With programs that address early detection, disease management, financial assistance, clinical research, innovation and advocacy, no kidney organization impacts more lives than AKF. We are also one of the nation's top-rated nonprofits, investing 97 cents of every donated dollar in programs, AKF has also received the highest 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for 19 consecutive years, as well as the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar.

One of the American Kidney Fund's top priorities is to advocate for health equity—and we believe that healthcare access and affordability are critical components. Without action to expand coverage of promising medical testing, such as biomarker testing, advances in precision medicine will likely lead to an increase in existing disparities in health outcomes.

We believe that removing barriers to biomarker testing will ensure that all patients—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status or zip code—will benefit from better care. This, we submit to you today, is simply good public policy, which is why we respectfully request your support for this bill.

Thank you again for your time and for your careful consideration of SB 805. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,

Ari Holland-Baldwin

Associate Director of State Policy and Advocacy

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