

Hello and good afternoon. My name is Dr Gina Campbell Moore, and I am a retired physician with a background in obstetrics and gynecology.

I would like to thank the honorable members of this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of Senate Bill 961, legislation to ensure access to critical pharmacogenetic testing services for Maryland patients.

Currently, I serve as a Vice President in Market Access with Myriad Genetics, a company that, since 1991, has discovered and commercialized genetic tests that help determine the chances of developing diseases, assess the risk of disease progression, and guide treatment decisions across medical specialties.

Today, Maryland is grappling with rising levels of mental illness, worsened by a shortage of mental health providers and facilities, especially in rural and underserved communities. Mental healthcare providers urgently need tools and solutions to address this growing crisis and assist their patients in recovery.

One such tool is pharmacogenomic mental health testing, which would be covered under SB 961. Pharmacogenomic tests, which only need to be administered once in a patient's lifetime, evaluate genetic variants that affect how a drug is metabolized or acts on a patient's body. Clinically validated pharmacogenomic tests offered by precision medical laboratories like Myriad must be ordered by a licensed clinician. The test results provide valuable data to providers, helping to inform medication selection or dose optimization—significantly enhancing patient outcomes, improving quality of life, and reducing healthcare costs. These tests offer comprehensive insights into how a patient's clinically relevant genetic variations may impact outcomes with commonly prescribed psychiatric medications and can help reduce trial-and-error prescribing. Pharmacogenomic mental health tests have already been covered by the federal Medicare Program for over a decade, as well as by many State Medicaid programs and some large commercial insurance carriers.

When mental health is managed effectively, overall healthcare management improves. For example, controlling severe depression enhances the management of comorbid conditions like diabetes or heart disease. Swift stabilization of psychiatric patients by avoiding prolonged medication trials can prevent psychiatric-related hospitalizations, unnecessary trips to state detention facilities, and allow patients to return to their lives and work sooner.

For these reasons, I urge members of this committee to safeguard patient access to pharmacogenomic testing for patients in Maryland by supporting the passage of Senate Bill 961.

Thank you

Gina Campbell Moore, MD, MBA, FACOG