



To: Chair Biedle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Oncology Nursing Society
Date: February 12, 2025
RE: Support SB476 – Genetic Test Cost Sharing

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and the 758 oncology nurse members in the state of Maryland, I am writing to express our strong support for **Maryland S476**, which would require coverage of multigene panel genetic testing and follow up cancer screenings with no patient cost-sharing. This policy change would greatly help detect the potential for cancer early and eliminate any associated out-of-pocket cost burdens for patients who may have an increased risk of developing cancer.

The ability to identify individuals who are at increased risk for developing cancer because of an inherited altered (mutated) cancer predisposition gene is possible through cancer predisposition genetic testing. Since the mapping of the human genome in 2003, genetic testing has rapidly evolved from single-gene tests to more complex profiles that measure multiple genes. It's now part of standard care for many types of cancer. The knowledge, through genetic testing, that a patient has an increased risk for cancer would open the door for additional risk-reducing intervention therapies and diagnostics – improving health outcomes. As an example, if a patient was found to have a genetic variant for breast cancer, a clinician would be able to recommend mammography imaging or MRI screenings at an earlier age than the general population, thus improving their long-term outcomes for early detection.

By offering coverage of this type of precision oncology and eliminating copays, **Maryland S476** will lead to improved outcomes, lower costs, and fewer side effects for Maryland patients.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and encourage you to support Maryland HB830/S476. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss our support, please feel free to contact healthpolicy@ons.org

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ONS is a professional association that represents the over 100,000 oncology nurses in the United States and is the professional home to more than 35,000 members. ONS is committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve the quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families.