



The Honorable Tate Reeves

March 10, 2026

Governor of Mississippi  
 Walter Sillers Building, 19<sup>th</sup> floor  
 550 High Street  
 Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Governor Reeves,

On behalf of the patients and health care providers we represent across Mississippi, **we urge you to sign The Jill Gary Eure Act (HB 565)**. This legislation is named for Jill Eure, the late wife of Rep. Casey Eure (R-Harrison). Jill Eure benefited from biomarker testing after her cancer diagnosis.

## **Biomarker testing connects patients with the most effective treatments.**

Precision medicine uses biomarker testing to gather information about a person's own body to prevent, diagnose, or treat disease.<sup>i</sup> This information is found by testing a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker (e.g., genetic alterations, molecular signatures). The results of biomarker testing can help determine the treatments that will work best for a specific patient and can also allow patients to avoid treatments that are likely to be ineffective.

In certain areas of medicine, like cancer care, advances in precision medicine have been progressing rapidly in recent years and have led to targeted cancer therapies that work by interfering with specific cellular processes involved in the growth, spread, and progression of cancer. In other words, effective treatments can be selected based on the tumor itself, rather than just its location in the body. Additionally, appropriate biomarker testing can help doctors determine which cancer patients are more likely to have recurring or more aggressive disease so that patients at low risk of recurrence may choose to avoid unnecessary treatment.

## **Research shows that targeted therapy can improve health outcomes, increase quality of life, and prolong patient survival.<sup>ii,iii</sup>**

Using the traditional trial and error method to identify an effective treatment for a particular patient can take months — even years. In chronic, degenerative diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, any length of time spent trying (and failing) on ineffective treatments allows the disease to continue causing irreversible damage to the joints, increasing health care consumption and costs. In cancer care and some autoimmune conditions, the length of time it takes to identify an effective treatment can be a matter of life or death. **In all cases, ineffective treatments exacerbate the physical, emotional, and economic burdens of disease, and the price is paid by both the patient and the insurer.**

## **The Jill Gary Eure Act (HB 565) aligns state-regulated insurance coverage of biomarker testing with the latest medical evidence in Mississippi.**

This language has been thoroughly vetted and received **broad support from patients, providers, industry, and lawmakers.** Comparable legislation has passed and been signed into law in 22 other states, including Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Texas, with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Despite evidence pointing to the clinical benefits associated with biomarker testing, routine clinical use does not always follow, and testing rates lag behind clinical guideline recommendations. In a 2021 survey, 66% of oncology providers reported that insurance coverage for biomarker testing is a significant or moderate barrier to appropriate biomarker testing.<sup>iv</sup>

## **Without action to expand coverage and access to biomarker testing, advances in precision medicine could exacerbate existing disparities in access to care and, consequently, health outcomes associated with race, ethnicity, income, and geography.**

Despite the clear benefits of biomarker testing, many insurance plans do not cover evidence-based biomarker testing for all patients who need it. Improving coverage for and access to biomarker testing across insurance types is key to reducing health disparities.

We must remove barriers to biomarker testing and precision medicine, and ensure all patients, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status or zip code, benefit from better care. The Jill Gary Eure Act (HB 565) is critical to removing barriers to biomarker testing to ensure that patients can unlock the value and cost-savings potential of precision medicine.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please reach out to Kimberly Hughes, Mississippi Government Relations Director with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, at [Kimberly.Hughes@cancer.org](mailto:Kimberly.Hughes@cancer.org).

Sincerely,

Advocates for Universal DPD/DPYD Testing  
(AUDT)

AiArthritis: International Foundation for  
Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory  
Arthritis

Aimed Alliance

ALS Association

Alzheimer's Association – Mississippi  
Chapter

American Association of Clinical Urologists  
(AACU)

American Cancer Society Cancer Action  
Network (ACS CAN)

American Lung Association, Mississippi

Arthritis Foundation

Autoimmune Association

Biomarker Collaborative

Cactus Cancer Society

CancerCare

Cancer Support Community

Coalition of State Rheumatology  
Organizations (CSRO)

Colon Cancer Coalition

Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses

Community Health Center Association of  
Mississippi

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach  
Cancer

EndPreeclampsia.org

Exon 20 Group

Fight Colorectal Cancer

FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer  
Empowered

GI Cancers Alliance, Inc

Global Coalition on Aging

Global Colon Cancer Association

Global Liver Institute

GO2 for Lung Cancer

Head and Neck Cancer Alliance

HEAL Collaborative

Honor the Gift

ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy  
Network

Infusion Access Foundation (IAF)

Jackson Oncology

KRAS Kickers

Lung Cancer Research Foundation

LUNGeVity Foundation

Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.

The Mended Hearts, Inc.

MET Crusaders

The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Mississippi Hospitals Association

Mississippi Psychiatric Association

Mississippi Rural Health Association

Mississippi State Medical Association

National Comprehensive Cancer Network®  
(NCCN®)

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition

Oncology Nursing Society

One Cancer Place

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

Parkinson's Foundation

Patient Empowerment Network

Patients Rising

PDL1 Amplifieds

RareRising

The Raymond Foundation, Inc

Sharsheret

The State Zebra Network

Stupid Cancer

Susan G Komen

Triage Cancer

VHL Alliance

ZERO Prostate Cancer

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<sup>i</sup> NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/precision-medicine>.

<sup>ii</sup> Gutierrez, M. E., Choi, K., Lanman, R. B., Licitra, E. J., Skrzypczak, S. M., Pe Benito, R., Wu, T., Arunajadai, S., Kaur, S., Harper, H., Pecora, A. L., Schultz, E. V., & Goldberg, S. L. (2017). Genomic Profiling of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer in Community Settings: Gaps and Opportunities. *Clinical lung cancer*, 18(6), 651–659. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clc.2017.04.004>

<sup>iii</sup> Mendelsohn, J., Lazar, V., & Kurzrock, R. (2015). Impact of Precision Medicine in Diverse Cancers: A Meta-Analysis of Phase II Clinical Trials. *Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology*, 33(32), 3817–3825. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2015.61.5997>

<sup>iv</sup> ACS CAN. “Survey Findings Summary: Understanding Provider Utilization of Cancer Biomarker Testing Across Cancers.” Dec, 2021.

[https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/national\\_documents/provider\\_utilization\\_of\\_biomarker\\_testing\\_polling\\_memo\\_dec\\_2021.pdf](https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/national_documents/provider_utilization_of_biomarker_testing_polling_memo_dec_2021.pdf)