

Senate Resolution 777

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Butler of the 55th,
Halpern of the 39th, Hatchett of the 50th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the benefits of biomarker testing as a necessary part of precision medicine; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, precision medicine, also known as personalized healthcare, has led to targeted
4 therapies that have improved patient outcomes and quality of life, particularly in the
5 treatment of cancer patients; and

6 WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS), it is estimated that 58,970
7 Georgians will be diagnosed with cancer, and 18,970 Georgians will die of cancer in 2022;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, biomarker testing allows healthcare providers to analyze a patient's gene
10 mutations, alterations, or protein expressions specific to an individual patient to determine
11 which medical treatments will work best for each patient; and

12 WHEREAS, the field of precision medicine holds great promise in ensuring the delivery of
13 the right treatment to the right patient at the right time, and 60 percent of treatments in
14 preclinical development rely on biomarker data; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS
16 CAN), barriers to biomarker testing contribute to racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic
17 disparities: Black, older, and Medicaid-insured patients have been less likely to receive
18 next-generation sequencing biomarker testing; and

19 WHEREAS, Black individuals have a disproportionate cancer burden, including the highest
20 mortality and the lowest survival of any racial/ethnic group for most cancers; and

21 WHEREAS, Black men have the highest rates of lung and colorectal cancer of any racial
22 group and are less likely to receive biomarker testing for these diseases compared with White
23 patients; and

24 WHEREAS, patients with certain types of lung cancers who received biomarker testing had
25 a 28 percent reduction in mortality; and

26 WHEREAS, biomarker testing is available for an ever-increasing range of conditions and
27 diseases, but patient access to these tests is not keeping pace with the rate of innovation; and

28 WHEREAS, awareness and education efforts are necessary to ensure that more patients will
29 have access to biomarker testing that will save and prolong lives.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 support awareness, education, and understanding of the ways biomarker testing can be used
32 to support diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of patients in a personalized way and the
33 importance of ensuring access to these promising technologies.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
36 press.