

January 25, 2021

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Re: HB 1328 – Mandated Coverage for Vitamin D Testing

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

My name is Sara Orrange. I am a Regional Director of State Affairs for America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the national association whose members provide insurance coverage for health care and related services. AHIP respectfully opposes HB 1328 concerning coverage for Vitamin D screening.

Health insurance plans have taken critical steps to increase access to innovative and high-quality health care products and implement cost control mechanisms that better allow individuals and employers to obtain and provide coverage in the private market. This health insurance mandate threatens the efforts of all health care stakeholders to provide consumers with meaningful health care choices and affordable coverage options.

Health insurance plans develop competitively priced, high-quality products that balance access to comprehensive benefits and services with medical necessity and evidence-based principles regarding safety, effectiveness, and cost.

Enacting benefit mandates prevents the benefits package from adapting to evolving medical literature and clinical guidelines to provide the most up-to-date and cost-effective product to consumers. Certain procedures or medical devices may become obsolete, or even harmful to patients, through newer medical advances or greater bodies of knowledge. The adoption of benefit mandates that do not promote evidence-based medicine may lead to lower quality care, over- or misutilization of services, and higher costs for treatments that may be ineffective, less safe, or higher cost than other benefits and services.

For these reasons, we oppose HB 1328. If you have any questions about the concerns raised in this letter, please to contact me at sorange@ahip.org or (703) 887-5285. Thank you for your time and consideration.