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House Human Services Committee
Representative Ruby, Chairman
Testimony in Support of HB 1283
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Chairman Barta, Vice-Chair Boehm, and Members of the Senate Industry, Business, and Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today in **support of HB 1283**. My name is Dr. Penny Briese and I am a certified healthcare simulationist and associate professor of nursing at the University of Jamestown. I am also the Director of Advocacy for the North Dakota Nurses Association.

Removing cost sharing for preventive services has been proven to increase the use of breast cancer screening services across the nation. That is what this bill is all about. When cost sharing was removed from preventive screening for Medicare recipients, there was a statistically significant increase in mammography screenings. These screenings are able to detect breast cancer at early stages, when treatment is most likely to be successful. To put it bluntly, screenings save lives.

As a nurse educator, I know the importance of teaching student nurses how to perform breast cancer screenings. I advocated for equipment with which to do just that and the most recent human patient simulator (HPS) purchased by the University of Jamestown is a female who has realistic, palpable breasts for students to actually be able to feel the different abnormalities found when a patient has breast cancer at various stages. It is truly an amazing teaching tool! This training also encourages female students to pay attention to their own breasts and perform self-examinations.

But not every woman learns how to do a proper breast self-examination. The cost of seeing a professional healthcare provider often prevents women from receiving life-saving examinations, putting them at risk of delayed discovery and unsuccessful treatment for breast cancer. The longer women wait, the harder it is to treat breast cancer and survivability rates decrease. The simple act of removing cost sharing has been shown to increase women seeking professional breast examination.

Because of this, I urge the committee to **support** HB 1283. Thank you for your consideration of this and for all you do for the women of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny Briese, PhD, MS, BSN, RN, CHSE
Director of Advocacy
North Dakota Nurses Association
Associate Professor of Nursing
Simulation Lab Coordinator
University of Jamestown