

Chair Barta, members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee, for the record my name is Ben Hanson, I'm the government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I'm here today to testify in favor of HB 1283.

Wanted to level set here, obviously everyone knows what breast cancer is here and likely many committee members have personal stories of families members who have had to deal with it. Wanted to just share some information:

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes.

1 in 43 will die of the disease.

And, finally, here in North Dakota, In 2025, approximately 640 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and an estimated 70 lives will be lost to the disease in our state.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women, and the second deadliest after lung cancer.

And I highlight these devastating statistics to not just to level set but reinforce the public policy that North Dakota already has already established as of 1989 with regards to breast cancer screening. As you can see if you check your online testimony under the submitted documents under my name, during that legislative session North Dakota mandated that mammography be covered at no cost share due to the disease's prevalence. Therefore, this is not a new mandate, Mr. Chair and committee members, but what this bill does is bring into parity the new methods of screening for the same thing: breast cancer detection. Some of you will remember that in 2015 this body moved to require providers to inform women if they have dense breast tissue.

We know that about 40% of women have dense breast tissue and 10% of those have extremely dense breast tissue and that dense breast tissue reduces the effectiveness of mammograms in screening for breast cancer.