



***Written Testimony Supporting SCR 4009
House Human Services Committee – March 21, 2023***

Chair Weisz, Vice Chair Ruby, and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

We encourage your support of SCR 4009, which would eliminate out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging. Studies show that individuals facing high out-of-pocket costs associated with diagnostic imaging are less likely to have their recommended follow-up imaging. This can mean that the person will delay care until cancer has spread to other parts of the body making it much deadlier and much more costly to treat.

Access to preventive screening mammography is available at no cost as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Although, if the results of that screening mammogram require a follow-up diagnostic exam (such as an MRI, ultrasound, or diagnostic mammogram) to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy, the patient will likely face hundreds to thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs – all before they even begin treatment.

An estimated 12-16% of women screened with modern digital mammography require follow-up imaging. A screening mammogram would not be considered successfully completed if the follow-up diagnostic imaging were not performed to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy. Diagnostic imaging is also often recommended as the primary breast imaging for breast cancer survivors, women at high-risk for breast cancer, and those who have undergone a lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic caused women to delay screenings and has financially impacted millions of Americans, especially those who are most vulnerable. The cost burden of diagnostic imaging leads to longer delays or forgone testing, later-stage diagnoses, and more difficult and expensive treatments for patients.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for all cancer patients to have fair and equitable access to breast imaging that may save their lives. As such, we support SCR 4009 and urge you to pass this resolution. Thank you for your consideration.

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