



Madam Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective on SCR 4009. My name is Carla Barrios. I am a Radiologist Assistant in ND. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists. The North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists is a professional society representing medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals across the state of North Dakota. We are an affiliate of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists with nearly 157,000 members nationally, 756 of which are residents of North Dakota. Our mission is to serve as advocates for the imaging profession by providing education, networking and communication. Our main goal is to promote quality imaging and patient care.

The North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists supports SCR 4009 as amended, regarding SCR 4009 studying whether health insurance should provide coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without cost sharing requirements.

Early detection of breast cancer leads to the greatest chance of survival. However, only screening mammograms are currently cost free under the Affordable Care Act. This leaves diagnostic breast imaging, as well as supplemental imaging subject to cost sharing requirements. As an imaging professional, I have witnessed women be referred to receive further diagnostic and supplemental imaging exams after undergoing a screening mammogram, yet too many refuse further testing due to the coverage disparity and do not receive these critical imaging exams. This is especially true in lower and middle income patients. Many times this lack of diagnostic imaging results in cancerous lesions going unnoticed until cancer has progressed to more advanced stages.

The North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologists is always happy to be a resource for more information regarding medical imaging and radiation therapy. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share testimony in support of SCR 4009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Barrios, MS BSRT RRA, RPA (R) (M)

President

NDSRT North Dakota Society of Radiologic Technologist