

HB 1283
House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Written Testimony
January 27, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective on HB 1283. My name is Stacey Will. I currently work in the health care industry and my job is to ensure our ND community members get timely, appropriate, and thorough screening.

Screening saves lives. To save lives and decrease medical expenses, we must find breast cancer early. Mammograms are the first level of screening to detect breast cancer, however, if anything is identified as potentially suspicious further evaluation is needed by additional mammographic views. This includes, but is not limited to, ultrasound, and/or MRI, and potentially a biopsy to confirm a cancer diagnosis.

Unfortunately, I have personally seen multiple patients decline additional steps in screening due to the inability to pay for them. This eventually leads to late-stage diagnosis which results in lower survival rate, more aggressive treatments at higher costs.

In addition to supporting our community in getting screened, I have been a victim of high-cost screening due to additional imaging. Due to dense breast tissue, cancer is harder to detect on regular mammogram. I am required to have additional imaging to ensure proper views are obtained. In addition to regular mammograms annually, I have had spot compressions, ultrasounds, CT guided mammograms, as well as a biopsy. This has cost thousands of dollars out of pocket every year.

As a healthcare professional, patient, mother of two daughters, and community member, I am committed to the fight against breast cancer and ensuring everyone has equal access to breast imaging. This could save your wife, mother, daughter, aunt, niece, neighbor etc. I support HB1283 and I urge you to pass this important, life-saving legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stacey Will
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