

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 Heidi Allbee. I am a wife, mother, sister, daughter, nurse, community member and patient and I am asking you to support HB 1283. This will increase access to medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging without the burden of patient cost sharing.

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.

Many women decline additional screening due to the inability to pay for them. This eventually leads to late-stage diagnosis, which results in lower survival rate and more aggressive treatments at higher costs. Imagine the burden of having cancer and not having access to an answer due to financial concerns.

I am diligent in having yearly screening mammograms because I know the importance of early detection. Unfortunately, I have been required to have additional imaging due to abnormal findings. This additional imaging can cost thousands of dollars out of pocket. I am fortunate to be able to afford the recommended imaging, however not everyone can. Every woman in ND should have access to additional mammographic screening to rule out cancer regardless of their financial status. This could save you, 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,
Heidi Allbee
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