

Chair Warrey and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective on HB 1283. My name is Cori Brothers. I am a Radiologic Technologist, currently working as a CT technologist and a Mammographer in Bismarck, North Dakota. I like to say that working as a mammography is not just my profession but it is a my passion. My motivation to work every day as a radiology technologist comes from being a woman, a mother and a daughter. My mother lost her battle in 2015 to Ovarian cancer, that we now know was caused by the BRACA 1 gene, a gene that causes breast cancer. My maternal Grandmother and my Maternal Aunt also had breast cancer, as well as my maternal grandfather having prostate cancer. All cancers directly linked to breast cancer. So I know first had the importance of screening and early diagnosis. My prayer is that no other daughter will have to hold their moms hand as they take their last breaths on this earth.

I get to go work and perform a lifesaving exam knowing that the best chance of surviving breast cancer is early detection. 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 a mammographer, I have witnessed recommendations for women to have further diagnostic and supplemental imaging exams after undergoing a screening mammogram, yet too many refuse further testing due to the out of pocket expenses and do not complete these critical imaging exams.

As a patient with a long family history of breast cancer it is the current recommendation that I receive 1 screening mammogram and 1 breast MRI yearly. The breast MRI is preventative but is not covered as a screening exam therefore subject to cost sharing requirements. Usually costing me around \$4000-5000+ out of pocket every year. Please stop making women choose between their health and feeding their families.

Please vote yes on HB 1283 to provide coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without cost sharing requirements. Furthermore do not delay any farther and make this available to the general population. Providing this coverage to only state insured patients first is discrimination and withholding life saving coverage to those that need it.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my testimony in support of HB 1283.
Respectfully Submitted,
Cori Brothers RT (R) (CT) (M) (BD) (ARRT)