

HB 1283
House Industry, Business and Labor
January 27, 2025

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

My name is Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, and I am here in support of HB 1283. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you today about my work with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), my personal experience with cancer (Ca), and why affordable screening is important.

Background

- Volunteer & advocate for ACS CAN
- Have collaborated with the ACS since the mid-1990s.
- I believe in the ACS & trust their work to prevent deaths from Ca & support those who do have Ca.
- ACS CAN is an advocacy organization working for effective public policies.
- My work as a PHN included policy advocacy actions primarily r/t tobacco prevention
- My PhD in nursing included policy.
- Policies can affect so many lives. As nurses and with other nurses and doctors, we often can care for one patient at a time, but policy can impact the lives of thousands of people at a time.
- We can make fighting Ca affordable for everyone.

Personal

- My large extended family includes 18 aunts and uncles, in addition to the aunts and uncles I have through their marriages. I have more than 50 first cousins.
- Ca is part of our family's health history, with deaths from Breast (Br) Ca, blood Ca, throat Ca, & more. My aunt died young from Br Ca.
- Another best friend who recently had a double mastectomy after a Br Ca diagnosis (dx).

Why Screening

- It typically has no symptoms when it is small & easily treated, which is why screening is so important.
- Fortunately, early detection through screening improves survival by detecting Ca early when treatment is more effective.
- However, a mammogram alone cannot confirm a Ca dx & is only the initial step in the early detection of Br Ca.

Diagnostic / Ongoing Screening

- F-up diagnostic screenings help women who need more than a mammogram for a clean bill of health get the tests they need.
- F-up diagnostic screenings are often needed for abnormal results or high-risk points.
 - MRI or a higher-level diagnostic mammogram.
- These frequently involve significant out-of-pocket expenses, hundreds to thousands of dollars.
 - co-pays, co-insurance, & deductibles.
- These cost barriers may prevent many individuals from going forward with the screening.
- This is especially true among people with limited incomes, for whom these costs can be a significant portion of their income.
- This can lead to delayed or missed Br Ca screenings & delays in follow-up tests. Any delays can impact a person's survival.
- I cannot imagine having a positive mammogram & then not having the dollars to pay for the diagnostic screening.
- Really screening should not be thought of as a single test, it is more of a continuum of testing to determine if a person has Ca.
- The costs of all screening procedures, including the diagnostic mammogram & MRIs should be covered without costing the patients & making them decide between groceries & other bills & diagnosis of Ca.
- We should make fighting Ca affordable for everyone.

I encourage you to support HB 1283 to increase access to medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging by eliminating cost sharing.

Thank you for your time.

Kelly Buettner-Schmidt