

Testimony
In Support of House Bill No. 1283
Senate Industry and Business Committee
Senator Jeff Barta, Chair
March 18, 2025

Chairman Barta, Vice Chairman Boehm, and honorable members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee:

On behalf of Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) and our North Dakota member Community Health Centers, we offer our strong support for House Bill 1283. This important piece of legislation aims to improve access to diagnostic and supplemental breast cancer examinations by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for patients, including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance, for these vital screenings.

Breast cancer remains a leading cause of death among women in North Dakota. According to the North Dakota Department of Health, nearly 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. For many North Dakotans, the cost of diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations can be a significant financial hurdle, leading to delays in seeking care and resulting in more advanced stages of cancer upon diagnosis. This bill will directly address this issue by ensuring that women who need diagnostic screenings, including advanced imaging methods like MRIs and ultrasounds will not face the same financial barriers that they do now.

Early detection of breast cancer significantly improves the likelihood of successful treatment and survival. Additionally, catching breast cancer early can help reduce the long-term costs associated with more advanced treatments and hospitalizations, benefiting both patients and the state's healthcare system overall.

This legislation will have a positive impact on the most vulnerable populations in North Dakota, including many of the 35,000 individuals served by Community Health Centers each year, many of whom face financial barriers to care. By eliminating the financial obstacles to diagnostic and supplemental breast screenings, HB1283 will lead to earlier diagnosis, better health outcomes, and lower overall healthcare costs in the long run.

We strongly urge the Committee to support HB1283, as it represents a critical step forward in improving breast cancer detection and treatment for North Dakotans.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shelly Ten Napel, CEO

Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas