

Written Testimony Supporting SCR 4009
Senate Human Services Committee
February 13, 2023, 9:00 AM

Madam Chair Lee, Vice Chair Cleary, and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 4009. Breast cancer has or will likely touch someone near you. Diagnosis is a process that begins with the standard screening tool- a mammogram. Thankfully many are fortunate to have medical insurance or access to options to complete the mammogram.

My recent experience with a routine screening put me on a path to a repeat image. My annual screening came back with a statement of 'requires further imaging'. The repeat mammogram came back with a recommendation for an ultrasound. Thankfully I received a clear report from the ultrasound. But what followed the ultrasound- was receiving a medical bill for \$440 because though the screening was covered at no cost- the diagnosis was not.

Many friends and family have not been so fortunate to receive a clear report. They received a breast cancer diagnosis which requires additional imaging and came with worry about the costs. Some have gone through breast cancer treatment once, then second-time questionable areas were discovered during a screening mammogram which led to another cancer diagnosis years later. The costs associated were very concerning.

One very small step to help encourage women to follow up and seek a timely diagnosis is to eliminate the cost barrier of co-pay/co-insurance that is now required. I am in support of SCR 4009 and believe the small step to study eliminating the copay for diagnostic imaging will go a long way to help more women find an early diagnosis and offer better options for survival.

Sincerely,

Sharon Taylor