

## Testimony on HB 1283 – March 18, 2025

Senate IB Committee by Rep. Karen Karls, District 35 - Bismarck

This is a bill focused on Women's Health, while also recognizing that approximately 1% of breast cancer cases occur in men. This legislation ensures that essential breast cancer screenings, including follow-up and supplemental imaging, are provided at no cost share for those who need them—regardless of gender.

Currently, initial screening mammograms for average-risk women are covered at no cost share. However, many patients who require follow-up imaging or additional screening due to an abnormal result or high-risk factors (such as personal or family medical history) face significant out-of-pocket costs. This bill ensures that cost is not a barrier to accessing medically necessary breast imaging.

It is important to clarify that this is not an insurance coverage bill-- all breast cancer screening are already included in the Essential Health Benefits plan. HB 1283 specifically eliminates cost-sharing, which often prevents patients from getting the diagnostic care they need.

Cost barriers can lead to delayed diagnosis, more advanced cancer, and even metastatic disease—where cancer spreads beyond the breast, to other parts of the body.

Early detection saves lives, reduces the need for intensive treatments, and lowers overall healthcare costs.

Please support this life-saving bill.

I'd like to introduce my constituent, Bobbie Will, who asked me to sponsor HB1283.

Bobbie serves as the State Policy & Advocacy Manager for Susan G. Komen in MT, ND, SD and WY, and can provide additional insights on the importance of this legislation.