

Thank you to Senator Monnes-Anderson and the committee for addressing this bill, which I believe has the capability, if passed, to save lives.

My younger sister was diagnosed with breast cancer when she was 36 and died of breast cancer when she was 41. I am 48 and have been getting mammograms since I was 39 due to my inclusion in the "strong family history" group. Each year, I request a formal copy of the radiologist's interpretation of my mammogram. Every year, the mammogram report says I have extremely dense breast tissue and the most recent one went so far as to say "The breasts are very dense which may obscure a lesion". I had the radiologist reading my mammogram combined with ultrasound last year suggest I get MRI's due to the medical history and my personal breast density. Currently MRI or ultrasound is not covered as as preventative screening. I have paid for ultrasounds and MRI's 3 times now to obtain adequate screening. This means paying a \$500. deductible first and then 20% of the cost of the screening test and the physicians fee for reading and interpretation. This also means my mammogram is considered "diagnostic" and not "preventative" so I end up paying for the mammogram too, even if I have not had a mammogram for that year.

It seems to me, the spirit of the law is to allow for preventative screenings to be covered and not to create a financial burden that would prevent people from getting regular screenings. I feel the financial burden of not covering the appropriate screening tool based on the individual is unfair and that if preventative screening is covered, the appropriate preventative screening should be chosen by the physician.

Thank you for your consideration,

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