

From: kris alman

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:13 PM

To: Rep Greenlick; Rep Nosse; Rep Hayden; Rep Buehler; Rep Clem; Rep KenyGuyer; Rep Kennemer; Rep Lively; Rep Weidner

Cc: ThieleCirka Sandy

Subject: Support HB 2560

Chair Greenlick and members of the Health Committee,

HB 2560 is a no-brainer. Some screening tests are better than others. The colonoscopy is one of those.

The politics of "free" preventive medicine means that the way health plans define "essential benefits" could limit a patient to sampling stools for occult blood. While these tests are not invasive and are immediate and cheap, they have significant false positive *and* false negative rates. True positives could be secondary to upper gastrointestinal bleeds.

The colonoscopy is a superior test; when performed after a screening positive fecal blood test the procedure should still be billed as a preventive test, covered by the Affordable Care Act. Colonoscopies require sedation and the bowel prep is rigorous. Also, it would be patient cruelty to repeat a colonoscopy in order to biopsy any lesions seen during the screening test to avoid coding for a "diagnostic" rather than preventive screening test.

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