

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee,

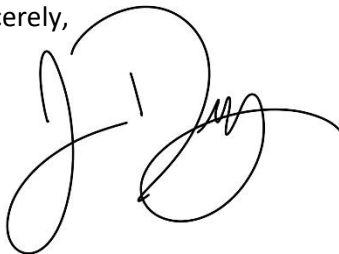
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, advocates for public policies that reduce the burden of death and suffering from cancer which include policies targeted at reducing costs to patients who are actively being screened for various cancers. **ACS CAN encourages you to vote yes on SB 1041 to eliminate any cost sharing burdens for patients getting any medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging.**

Cancer screening should be understood as a continuum of testing rather than a single recommended screening test, and that irrespective of individual risk, screening is a process that includes a recommended screening test and all follow-up tests described as diagnostic and judged to be integral and necessary to resolve the question of whether an adult undergoing screening has cancer. These tests should be covered without any patient cost-sharing. This includes tests for asymptomatic adults who have been designated as higher risk based on risk factors or prior screening examination findings, and thus have faced cost-sharing for regular interval screening, more frequent screening, supplemental imaging, or surveillance examinations.

There is unwavering agreement that we must endeavor to reduce this burden of cancer, and that reducing that burden is within our reach with existing knowledge. In the recent report of the President's Cancer Panel, Closing the Gap in Cancer Screening, the Panel stated, "The Panel supports efforts—including legislation—to ensure that cost-sharing for cancer screening or additional surveillance and recommended diagnostic services after an abnormal cancer screening test does not deter patients from receiving these services."¹ Given the evidence that patient cost-sharing, whatever the source, diminishes the timely uptake of essential cancer care associated with the full continuum of screening, it is time that strong polices are put in place to eliminate cost-sharing for recommended cancer screening and follow-up testing through the diagnosis of cancer.

We urge your support in helping reduce the unnecessary financial burden on patients undergoing the vital breast examinations that are needed to diagnose and treat breast cancer in all patients.

Sincerely,



Jamie Dunphy
Oregon Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

¹ President's Cancer Panel. Closing Gaps in Cancer Screening: Connecting People, Communities, and Systems to Improve Equity and Access. A Report from the President's Cancer Panel to the President of the United States. 2022. A web based version of this report is available at:
<https://PresCancerPanel.cancer.gov/report/cancerscreening>

