

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, members of the committee,

SB 1041 is a critical piece of legislation that would make medically necessary diagnostic imaging tests for breast cancer free for patients by prohibiting commercial insurers from requiring patient cost sharing, such as deductibles and copayments.

Diagnostic imaging is a crucial step in the screening and diagnosing breast cancer and is essential in ruling out the disease after a screening mammogram. However, under private insurance plans, cost-sharing discourages people from undergoing screenings, as the procedures range from hundreds to thousands of dollars per procedure.

The current coverage disparity, most evident by income level and race, often leads to lower- and middle-income patients forgoing testing and potential treatment until cancer has progressed to a more advanced stage, which is usually deadlier and more costly. This situation is particularly alarming among Black breast cancer patients who, despite having lower breast cancer rates overall, are diagnosed at later stages and have a higher mortality rate than their white counterparts with the same insurance.

If passed, SB 1041 would ensure that all women, regardless of their income or race, have access to life-saving diagnostic imaging tests for breast cancer. By removing the financial barrier, SB 1041 would increase access to care and promote the early detection and treatment of breast cancer, ultimately saving lives.

With one in eight women being diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and 4,200 new cases being diagnosed in Oregon alone this year, SB 1041 is a necessary and critical step towards ensuring that all women can benefit from testing and early diagnosis. I urge you to support this critical legislation.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman".

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County