



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

February 19, 2026

Testimony Before the House Health Care Committee Regarding SB 1527, Diagnostic Cervical Cancer Exams

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Diehl and members of the committee, my name is Katy King and I'm here on behalf of Oregon Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ACOG strongly supports SB 1527, regarding coverage of diagnostic cervical cancer exams without cost-sharing for patients.

This bill aims to eliminate deductibles, co-insurance, copayment or other out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic testing for cervical cancer for patients with commercial insurance. This would help to prevent unnecessary delays to care and avoid incurring catastrophic human and financial costs associated with this terrible disease.

According to American Cancer Society data, in 2024 there were approximately 140 women in Oregon diagnosed with cervical cancer and 50 deaths.

This is an entirely preventable disease, if screening programs (and now vaccination schedules) are diligently followed.

One of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act was to make cervical cancer screening (ie Pap testing) available to all patients without out-of-pocket costs. When someone has an abnormal result on a Pap test, follow-up testing - generally a biopsy - is needed to determine whether they are in fact at high risk for developing cervical cancer and need treatment to prevent that from happening, or whether they are at lower risk and can be monitored without treatment.

While patients no longer incur out-of-pocket costs for the initial Pap test, insurance coverage for the follow-up tests is highly variable and patients often encounter significant costs for both the biopsy itself and associated lab fees.

Cervical cancer disproportionately affects women of color and low-income women, groups who historically already face barriers to health care. The costs associated with testing for cervical abnormalities have greater impact on these populations, resulting in delays in diagnosis and therefore higher costs associated with eventual treatment. The goal with this bill is to remove any unnecessary barriers to care so that women can get the treatment they need in a timely fashion.

Oregon law currently also requires coverage for diagnostic follow up testing for colon cancer and diagnostic mammograms. This bill would expand the insurance coverage requirements to include cervical cancer follow up exams.

ACOG would like to express our gratitude to Rep. Hartman for sharing the story of her diagnosis, to our partners the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, OHSU and to Sen. Patterson, Sen. Hayden and Rep. Nosse for their support of bills introduced in 2024, 2025 and now 2026 to address this barrier to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.