



September 21, 2023

The Honorable Phil Berger
President Pro Tempore
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Berger,

The undersigned patient and provider organizations, which advocate for the North Carolina breast cancer community, encourage your support of HB 560. HB 560 would increase access to medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging by eliminating burdensome patient cost sharing. Studies show that individuals facing high out-of-pocket costs associated with diagnostic and supplemental imaging are less likely to have their recommended follow-up imaging. This can mean that the person will delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body making it much deadlier and much more costly to treat.

Widespread access to preventive screening mammography is available to millions of women as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Unfortunately, some individuals at a higher risk of breast cancer or those requiring follow-up imaging due to an abnormal mammogram result face hundreds to thousands of dollars in patient cost sharing – all before they are even potentially diagnosed with breast cancer.

An estimated 12-16% of women screened with modern digital mammography require follow-up imaging. Early detection of breast cancer is not possible without the medically necessary diagnostic follow-up or additional supplemental imaging required to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy.

Eliminating out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental imaging would improve access and utilization of the services, allowing more timely diagnosis of breast cancer. This change could also lead to improved health outcomes and reduced costs to the health care system.

Sponsored by Representatives Donny Lambeth, Donna White, Becky Carney and Mary Belk, HB 560 passed unanimously through the house. On May 2, 2023, HB 560 was referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for people to have fair and equitable access to breast imaging that may save their lives. We respectfully urge your support of HB 560 and encourage its passage in the North Carolina Senate.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to North Carolinians. If you have any questions, please reach out to Genise Smith-Watkins, State Policy & Advocacy Manager at Susan G. Komen, at gsmithwatkins@komen.org, or (980) 349-9983.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Physicians, North Carolina Chapter

American College of Surgeons, North Carolina

Dense Breast-Info

North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians

North Carolina Medical Society

North Carolina Obstetrical & Gynecological Society

North Carolina Radiological Society

Susan G. Komen