



**Written Testimony Supporting HB 5430**  
**Submitted to the House Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**3-18-2025**  
**By Susan G. Komen**

---

Representative Donovan, Representative Giraldo, Representative Potter and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5430, which relates to coverage of medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging. My name is Angelica Katz and I am the Regional Manager for State Policy & Advocacy at Susan G. Komen.®

Komen is the world's leading nonprofit breast cancer organization representing the millions of people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Komen has an unmatched, comprehensive 360-degree approach to fighting this disease across all fronts—we advocate for patients, drive research breakthroughs, improve access to high quality care, offer direct patient support and empower people with trustworthy information. Komen is committed to supporting those affected by breast cancer today, while tirelessly searching for tomorrow's cures. We advocate on behalf of the estimated 1,140 people in the Rhode Island who will be diagnosed with breast cancer and the 120 who will die from the disease in 2025 alone.

While millions have coverage for screening mammography without cost sharing, individuals at a higher risk of breast cancer or those requiring follow-up imaging due to an abnormal screening mammogram result are subject to hundreds to thousands of dollars in cost sharing. Mammography is only the initial step in the early detection process and is not able to alone diagnose cancer. 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.

A recent study published in Radiology found that 1 in 5 patients said they would not go in for recommended follow-up imaging if they had to pay a deductible. The same study noted that 18% of patients shared they would skip the initial screening mammogram if they knew they would have to pay a deductible for the follow-up testing.

The use of breast cancer screening and follow-up diagnostics has led to significant increases in the early detection of breast cancer in the past 30 years. However, this is not true across all demographics. Evidence shows that commercially insured Black breast cancer patients were diagnosed at a later stage and had a higher mortality rate when compared with their white counterparts with the same insurance status. Additionally, Hispanic women tend to be diagnosed with later stage breast cancers than non-Hispanic white women which may be due to delays in follow-up after an abnormal mammogram.

Unfortunately, we often receive calls and emails from individuals who are unable to afford the out-of-pocket costs for their recommended breast imaging. Without assistance, many will simply delay or forego these medically necessary tests. This delay can mean that patients will not seek care until the cancer has spread, making it much deadlier and much more costly to treat. Breast cancer can be up to five times more expensive to treat when it has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body.

It is imperative that we take measures to reduce the overall costs to the health care system, ensuring breast cancer is detected at the earliest possible stage helps to eliminate the exorbitant treatments costs associated with a later stage diagnosis.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for all cancer patients to have fair and equitable access to breast imaging that may save their lives. As such, we support HB 5430 and urge you to pass this critical legislation.

**Thank you for your consideration.**



# **Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Imaging – H5430/S197**

## **Fact Sheet – March 2025**

Early detection of breast cancer reduces the chance of dying from the disease. While millions have coverage for screening mammography without cost sharing, individuals at a higher risk of breast cancer or those requiring follow-up imaging due to an abnormal screening mammogram result are subject to hundreds to thousands of dollars in cost sharing.

### **DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST IMAGING**

- Early detection of breast cancer is not possible without the medically necessary diagnostic follow-up or supplemental imaging required to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy.
- A recent study published in Radiology found that 1 in 5 patients said they would not go in for recommended follow-up imaging if they had to pay a deductible.
- The same study noted that 18% of patients shared they would skip the initial screening mammogram if they knew they would have to pay a deductible for the follow-up testing.
- Out-of-pocket costs are particularly burdensome for high-risk individuals, including those previously diagnosed with breast cancer, as diagnostic and supplemental tests are recommended rather than traditional screening.
- Eliminating out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic and supplemental imaging would improve access and likely result in more patients receiving an earlier diagnosis.

### **FAIR AND EQUAL COVERAGE**

- In 2025 alone, more than 1,140 individuals will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 120 will die of the disease in Rhode Island.
- Despite significant advancements in breast cancer screening and diagnosis over the past 30 years, disparities persist across some demographics. Evidence shows that commercially insured Black breast cancer patients were diagnosed at a later stage and had a higher mortality rate when compared with their white counterparts with the same insurance status.
- Studies show that individuals facing high out-of-pocket costs associated with diagnostic and supplemental imaging are less likely to have the 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 more deadly and much costlier to treat.
- According to the National Cancer Institute's Financial Burden of Cancer report, breast cancer has the highest treatment cost of any cancer.
- It is imperative that we take measures to reduce the overall costs to the health care system, ensuring breast cancer is detected at the earliest possible stage helps to eliminate the exorbitant treatments costs associated with a later stage diagnosis.

**Susan G. Komen encourages legislators to support H.5430/S.197 which will increase access to medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging by eliminating burdensome patient cost sharing.**