



Written Testimony Supporting HB7276
Submitted to the House Health and Human Services Committee
Feb 3rd 2026
By Susan G. Komen

Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB7276, which relates to coverage of medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging. My name is Angelica Katz, and I am the Sr. Regional Manager here for 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 1,160 people in Rhode Island who will be diagnosed with breast cancer and the 120 who will die from the disease in 2026 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 cannot diagnose cancer alone. Early detection of breast cancer is not possible without the medically necessary follow-up to 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.

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.

Late-stage diagnosis leads to significantly higher health care costs, extended employment absences, higher disability claims, increased staffing costs and greater retention risks, ultimately straining the workforce.

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 HB7276 and urge you to pass this critical legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST IMAGING

February 2026

Breast cancer has the highest treatment cost of any cancer - making early detection critical in reducing long term health care costs. Early detection of breast cancer is not possible without the medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental imaging required to determine the need for a biopsy or rule out breast cancer.

IMPORTANCE OF DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGING

- More than 1,160 individuals are estimated to be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 120 will die from the disease in Rhode Island in 2026 alone.
- Despite significant advancements in breast cancer screening and diagnosis over the past 30 years, disparities persist across some demographics.
- Studies show that individuals facing high out-of-pocket costs associated with diagnostic and supplemental imaging are less likely to receive their medically recommended imaging. This can mean that the individual will delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body, making it more deadly and much costlier to treat.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF DELAYED OR MISSED CARE

- A recent KFF study found that 6 in 10 adults say they are either very or somewhat worried about being able to afford the cost of health care services, with 23% saying their health got worse due to skipped or postponed care.
- According to a study published in Radiology, 1 in 5 patients said they would not go in for recommended follow-up imaging if they had to pay a deductible, with 18% of patients sharing they would skip the initial screening mammogram if they knew they would have to pay a deductible for the follow-up testing.
- Delayed or missed breast imaging can result in later stage diagnosis leading to significantly higher health care costs, extended employment absences, higher disability claims, increased staffing costs and greater retention risks, ultimately straining the workforce.
- By eliminating burdensome financial barriers to comprehensive preventive care, we can drive earlier detection, improve outcomes, reduce the overall costs to the health care system and create a healthier more productive workforce.

**States Where Patients
Have Access to Needed
Breast Imaging Without
Out-of-Pocket Costs**

**Rhode Island Should be
Next, Support
SB2032/HB7276**



Questions? Contact Angelica Katz at Akatz@Komen.org