

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Carol Donnelly <carol@gloriagemma.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:49 AM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Breast Exam Cost Sharing Bill (H7276)

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### **RE: Support of Breast Exam Cost Sharing Bill H7276**

**Written Testimony submitted by: Carol Donnelly, Two-time Breast Cancer Survivor, Development & Communications Manager for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation**

**February 3, 2026**

Dear Chairperson Donovan and Members of the House Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill H7276, which would eliminate out-of-pocket cost sharing for medically necessary follow-up breast diagnostic testing after a screening mammogram. On behalf the Gloria Gemma Foundation, I urge you to pass this bill because it removes a significant financial barrier for Rhode Island women and will save lives while reducing long-term medical costs.

Rhode Island's *median household income* is just under \$85,000, a modest amount that must cover an ever-increasing cost of living. Families across the state continue to struggle with rising prices for everyday essentials like food, heating fuel, electricity, rent, and taxes. Many working families find that most of their income goes toward these basic necessities, leaving very little cushion for unexpected medical expenses. For women who are called back for additional diagnostic breast testing, even modest copayments or deductibles can be a deterrent.

After a routine screening mammogram, approximately 10% of women are called back for further diagnostic evaluation. Of those recalled, roughly 5–10% receive a diagnosis of breast cancer. These are not rare events — they are critical moments where timely care can dramatically change outcomes. When financial barriers deter women from completing necessary follow-up testing, cancers can be detected later, when treatment is more invasive, costly, and less effective. Conversely, *early detection through complete follow-up care saves lives and reduces long-term healthcare expenditures*.

Women should never have to choose between financial hardship and their health. By removing cost sharing for appropriate follow-up diagnostic breast exams, this bill would ensure that women complete recommended testing without fear of unpredictable medical bills. Rhode Island would join other states that have recognized this as a public health imperative, reducing health disparities and improving outcomes for families across our state.

In light of the economic realities facing Rhode Island families — limited median incomes and rising basic living costs — and the proven benefits of early cancer detection, I strongly urge you to support and pass House Bill H7276.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Carol Ann Donnelly**

Development & Communications Manager



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