



Honorable Chairperson and distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Megan Daniel, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island. We are the state's comprehensive cancer control coalition, dedicated to coordinating local efforts to prevent cancer and improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders living with cancer. I am writing to express our organization's full and unwavering support for House Bill 8246, which mandates health insurance coverage for lung cancer screenings and eliminates out-of-pocket costs for patients.

Our support for this bill is informed by the dedicated work of the Rhode Island Lung Cancer Roundtable, a specialized task force convened by the Partnership. This task force—composed of oncologists, radiologists, primary care providers, and public health experts—has identified the specific financial barriers that H8246 seeks to dismantle.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Rhode Island. Every year, hundreds of our neighbors are diagnosed, often at a late stage when treatment options are limited and survival rates are significantly lower. While it is recommended that eligible adults be screened for lung cancer using a Low-Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) scan, many patients face cost barriers.

1. Rhode Islanders may delay or skip screenings because of high deductibles or co-pays. H8246 ensures that cost-sharing is removed, making the decision to get screened one based on health, not finances.
2. Crucially, this bill covers necessary follow-up diagnostic services. A suspicious finding on a lung scan is only the first step; the subsequent diagnostic tests are where costs often skyrocket for the patient. By covering the entire pathway of care, we ensure patients complete their screening process.
3. Lung cancer disproportionately affects our state's most vulnerable populations, including those in lower-income brackets and those with a history of tobacco use. By removing financial barriers, we move closer to closing the gap in cancer health disparities.

In the fight against cancer, time is the most valuable resource we have. When lung cancer is caught early, it is easier to treat and leads to better health outcomes. H8246 is a life-saving measure that will directly result in earlier diagnoses and more Rhode Islanders surviving this disease.

On behalf of the Partnership and our Lung Cancer Task Force, we urge you to move this bill forward with a favorable recommendation.

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Respectfully,

Megan Daniel, Executive Director

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