

To: Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
From: Brown Initiative for Policy, Cancer Prevention and Screening Policy (CPSP)  
RE: S 2032 – Cost-Sharing for Diagnostic Breast Screenings  
Date: 04/14/2026



Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the entire Cancer Prevention and Screening Policy Team (CPSP) with the Brown Initiative for Policy, we strongly urge the committee to support S2032. This testimony solely represents the view of the CPSP Team, which is committed to advocating for pragmatic solutions to address gaps in Rhode Island's cancer prevention policy.

In 2026, 1,160 Rhode Islanders are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 120 are estimated to die from the disease.<sup>1-2</sup> Despite this, Rhode Island remains the only state in New England where patients may still face out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary follow-up breast imaging.<sup>3</sup> These follow-up tests are crucial components of the cancer detection process. Without them, an abnormal screening remains unresolved, delaying definitive diagnosis and potentially life-saving care.

The consequences of this gap are both clinical and deeply inequitable. Delayed or forgone follow-up care can lead to later-stage cancer diagnoses, requiring more aggressive treatment and resulting in worse outcomes.<sup>4</sup> These financial barriers disproportionately impact low-income individuals and patients from historically marginalized communities.<sup>5</sup> Importantly, this bill would also promote long-term cost savings by facilitating earlier detection, which reduces the need for expensive, late-stage cancer treatments.

Our group is actively working in partnership with community organizations, researchers, and stakeholders to better understand the local impact of cost-sharing on patient behavior and outcomes. We've consistently heard about the immense, compounding burden of seeking cancer care: patients must take time off work, arrange additional child care, and pay for transit—only to reckon with a massive co-pay after their screening.

We also recognize concerns that eliminating cost-sharing could increase insurance premiums. However, evidence from other states suggests that these impacts are minimal and/or are outweighed by the benefits of earlier detection and reduced downstream healthcare costs.<sup>6-7</sup> As students preparing to enter careers in healthcare and public health, we are taught that early detection is one of the most powerful tools we have to reduce cancer mortality—but this principle only holds true if patients can access the full continuum of care. S2032 ensures that Rhode Island's policies reflect this reality.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support and pass S2032.

Thank you,  
Gavin Li and Ananya Uddanti  
Co-Leads for the Cancer Prevention and Screening Policy Team  
Brown Initiative for Policy

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<sup>1</sup>American Cancer Society. Estimated Number of New Cases for Selected Cancers by State, US, 2026.; 2026.

<sup>2</sup>American Cancer Society. Estimated Number of Deaths for Selected Cancers by State, US, 2026.; 2026.

<sup>3</sup>DenseBreast-Info. Expanded Breast Imaging Insurance Coverage by State.; 2026.

<sup>4</sup>Kothari A, Fentiman I. Diagnostic Delays in Breast Cancer and Impact on Survival. *International Journal of Clinical Practice*. 2003;57(3):200-203. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1742-1241.2003.tb10464.x>

<sup>5</sup>American Cancer Society. Out of Pocket Costs for Follow-up Tests after Abnormal Screening Mammogram and Their Impact on Breast Cancer Survival.; 2025.

<sup>6</sup>Maine Bureau of Insurance. A Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services of the 131st Maine Legislature.; 2024. [https://lldc.mainelegislature.org/Open/Rpts/ra995\\_5\\_m2r63\\_2024.pdf](https://lldc.mainelegislature.org/Open/Rpts/ra995_5_m2r63_2024.pdf)

<sup>7</sup>Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC. Mandated Benefit Review of House Bill (H.B.) 4748 and Senate Bill (S.B.) 2856 Submitted to the 192nd General Court: An Act Relative to Breast Cancer Equity and Early Detection.; 2024. <https://www.chiamass.gov/assets/docs/r/pubs/mandates/Breast-Cancer-Equity-November-2022.pdf>