

DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST IMAGING

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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

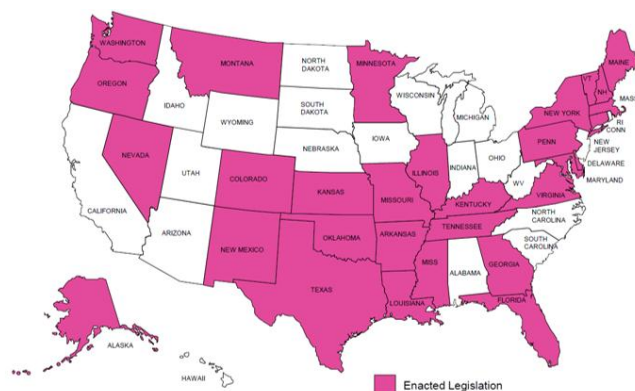
- More than 1,160 individuals are estimated to be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 120 will die from the disease in Rhode Island in 2026 alone.
- Despite significant advancements in breast cancer screening and diagnosis over the past 30 years, disparities persist across some demographics.
- Studies 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