



Written Testimony Supporting SB 2032
Submitted to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members
April 14th 2026
By Susan G. Komen

Chair Murray and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2032, 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 SB2032 and urge you to pass this critical legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.