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From: Jenifer Stark <jen@jeniferstark.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:08 AM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Support for Bill S-197 breast imaging coverage

Good morning,

I am so grateful that Sam Zurier has introduced bill S-197. For the last two years I've been required to have follow up ultrasounds on my breasts six months after my mammograms. My family has a history of breast cancer, and my breast tissue is dense - hence the mammograms cannot provide my doctors with a complete picture.

The prices of these ultrasounds, even with health insurance that I purchase through HealthSource Rhode Island, has skyrocketed. It is not covered as a preventative screening, even though it is required by my doctor as a preventative cancer measure. It is not a diagnostic screening. Most recently my cost-sharing was \$345 for a single breast ultrasound, and then I have to separately pay Rhode Island Medical Imaging over \$100 just for them to read the file.

It's an extra \$400- \$500 every year so that I won't die. Compare that to the cost of what I pay for my insurance through HSRI - with the tax credits (which thank goodness exist) it is the equivalent of over 4 months of insurance payments. Even without the tax credits, it would still be one whole month of insurance coverage.

The idea that this would be covered the way that a mammogram is covered, or at the very least that the costs for this would be capped because it is considered a preventative screening, is huge. The benefits of that to women in Rhode Island would be enormous.

I am really fortunate that I can even find the money to make these payments and budget for this every year. But so many people cannot, and the first time that this happens to them, they're going to be absolutely shocked. It's a huge piece of a paycheck to go to their doctors just so they won't have to risk getting breast cancer.

I urge you to pass bill S-197 and make it a no-brainer for women in Rhode Island to save their own lives and get screened as often as their doctors deem necessary.

Thank you for your time,

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