



January 23, 2024

Good afternoon,

The undersigned patient and provider organizations, which advocate on behalf of the Virginia breast cancer community, encourage your support of House Bill 230. If passed, this legislation would increase access to medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging by eliminating burdensome patient cost sharing. Studies show that individuals facing high out-of-pocket costs associated with diagnostic and supplemental imaging are less likely to complete their recommended follow-up imaging. This can mean the person will delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body making it much deadlier and more costly to treat.

While access to preventive screening mammography is available as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), unfortunately, individuals at a higher risk of breast cancer and those requiring follow-up imaging due to an abnormal mammogram result face hundreds to thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs. An estimated 12% of individuals require additional follow-up imaging after an abnormal mammogram. Early detection of breast cancer is not possible without the medically necessary diagnostic follow-up or additional supplemental imaging required to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy.

Eliminating out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental imaging would improve access and utilization of the services, allowing more timely diagnosis of breast cancer. This change could also lead to improved health outcomes and reduced costs to the health care system.

Sponsored by Delegate Shelly Simonds, Delegate Delores McQuinn, Delegate Jeion Ward, Delegate Kannan Srinivasan, and Senator Barbara Favola, House Bill 230 is scheduled to be heard in the VA House Labor and Commerce Subcommittee #1 on January 23, 2024.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for people to have fair and equitable access to breast imaging that may save their lives. We respectfully urge your support of House Bill 230 and encourage its passage through its first committee stop (VA House Labor and Commerce Subcommittee #1).

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Virginia. If you have any questions, please reach out to Genise Smith-Watkins, Susan G. Komen's State Policy & Advocacy Manager, at gsmithwatkins@komen.org or (980) 349-9983.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Rayus Radiology

Richmond Academy of Medicine

Susan G. Komen

Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation

Virginia Radiological Society