ON LETTERHEAD

DATE

RE: NC House Bill 560 Breast Imaging Parity

Dear Senator _____:

We /I respectfully request that during the current session the NC Senate finalize NC HB 560, which puts cost sharing for diagnostic and supplemental examinations for breast cancer on the same level as screening mammography.

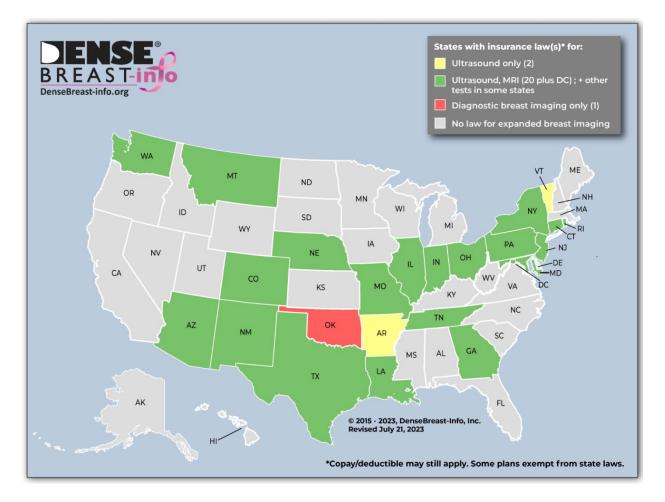
Additionally, HB560 is an opportunity to help address the failure to deliver early-stage diagnosis and the tragedy of later stage diagnosis experienced by North Carolina women of mammography age with dense breasts. Women with dense breasts compose 40% of women age 40 and over.

Dense breast tissue is an inherited trait like eye or hair color. It is not associated with size or health habits. The denser the breast tissue the more fibrous glandular tissue impedes cancer detection by mammography.

For women with dense breast, a mammogram may not be enough. The dense breast tissue hides cancers. The number of cancers missed is sobering for these populations.

Category of Breast Density	Percent of Cancers That Will <u>Not</u> Show on a Mammogram
Extremely dense	40%
Heterogeneously dense	25%
Scattered fibroglandular	15%
Fatty breasts	10%
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Currently 22 other states have enacted expanded insurance laws for breast related supplemental and diagnostic imaging. Unfortunately, North Carolina is not yet among them.



North Carolina, enacted a breast density inform law in January of 2014. Now, we can help women and their medical providers better on breast density information by insuring affordability of supplemental and diagnostic breast examination.

When the bill hearing is scheduled will for those who care so much such as physicians, patients and families, will there be an opportunity for them to offer statements or testify?

Thank you for your consideration for this important bill for the benefit of all NC Women and their families.

Sincerely,

References

1. Kerlikowske K, Zhu W, Tosteson AN, et al. Identifying women with dense breasts at high risk for interval cancer: a cohort study. Ann Intern Med 2015; 162:673-681

2. Wanders JO, Holland K, Veldhuis WB, et al. Volumetric breast density affects performance of digital screening mammography. Breast Cancer Res Treat 2017; 162:95-103