

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.

