



March 22, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for SB 1041

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

Thank you for considering testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 15,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon. ONA is supportive of SB 1041, because our members know that increasing access to diagnosis services saves lives.

Breast cancer is the most common type of diagnosed cancer in Oregon, and the second most deadly form of cancer for women.¹ However, death from breast cancer can be prevented with early detection: when breast cancer is discovered when it is in the localized stage, there is a 99% relative survival rate.² Unfortunately, many patients who are referred to diagnostic imaging to screen for breast cancer do not get this testing completed, because the co-pay and deductible are cost-prohibitive. This is especially true for lower- and middle-income patients, who are more likely to be under-insured, and for whom the cost sharing is more impactful.

SB 1041 prohibits commercial insurers from requiring patient cost sharing for diagnostic breast imaging. By passing this bill, the legislature would be making health care more equitable and accessible. Furthermore, this bill would save lives by allowing for earlier detection and treatment of breast cancer. ONA urges a yes vote on SB 1041. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

¹ *American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Statistics*. American Cancer Society | Cancer Facts & Statistics. (2023). Retrieved March 22, 2023, from <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#!/state/Oregon>

² *Breast Cancer Early Detection*. National Breast Cancer Foundation. (2022). Retrieved March 22, 2023, from <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/early-detection-of-breast-cancer/>