

Lisa Whitney

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Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee
401 S. Carson Street
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Dear Chair Marzola and members of the Assembly Commerce & Labor Committee,

I am writing to express support for SB330. This bill expands patient access to breast cancer screening and diagnostic testing at no cost to the patient.

As a woman with a family history of breast cancer I recognize the critical importance of breast cancer screening. We live in an age where we have access to diagnostic imaging that can provide early life saving detection of tumors but unfortunately not everyone has the financial means to pay for this. High out of pocket costs for diagnostic imaging often means that women don't receive the follow-up care that could be life saving for them.

I was told by my physician that as a woman with dense breast tissue a traditional mammogram makes detection more difficult and it was recommended that I receive a follow-up ultrasound. My insurance plan required a written letter of referral to justify the expense. My claim was initially denied and I had a high out of pocket until I could submit additional justification that, like 45% of women my age, I have the dense tissue which makes tumors more difficult to detect through routine mammography. I was lucky that my plan did end up covering the claim in the end, but insurance plans vary and this is not always the case. In addition, it took months of follow-up on my part to ensure that this claim was reimbursed.

Breast cancer has the highest treatment cost of any other type of cancer, and costs of treatment are more for those diagnosed in later stages. SB330 will help diagnose breast cancer early reducing the costs to patients and the entire health care system. We encourage your support for SB330.

Sincerely,
Lisa Whitney