

To: Members of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee

Fr: Tim Maglione, JD, Senior Director, Ohio State Medical Association
Monica Hueckel, Director, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: October 3, 2017

Re: SB 121 - Include tomosynthesis as part of mammography screening benefits

On behalf of the 12,000 Ohio physicians, residents, and medical students that represent the membership of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), **our organization is writing to express our support for Senate Bill 121.**

SB 121 would expressly state that tomosynthesis is included in screening mammography benefits that Ohio law requires health insurers to provide. An alternative to 2-dimensional imaging, tomosynthesis creates a 3-D data set to be interpreted by the radiologist in thin slices. This method allows for a complete picture of the breast tissue, reducing interference that can occur in 2-D imaging. Studies suggest that clinical use of tomosynthesis technology may help to increase cancer detection rates and to decrease rates at which patients are recalled for further imaging studies. Many insurance policies already list tomosynthesis as medically-necessary and is included in the screening mammography benefit, but others deny coverage of this technology, despite its use in same type of screening as a *covered* screening using standard 2-D technology.

OSMA members are among the many Ohio health care providers that frequently perform screening mammography using tomosynthesis. Our members recognize that it is critical to secure required insurance coverage of a screening which could potentially increase cancer detection rates and minimize patient anxiety. This is *not a new mandate*, but rather a clarification since tomosynthesis is a newer technique of an already covered benefit,. Ohio's screening mammography coverage requirement has been in place since 1999, and this legislation merely updates the Ohio Revised Code based on new technology that has been developed since then and is used for the same purpose.

Using tomosynthesis in screening mammography has the potential to save both the insurer and patient from the additional expenses, hassles, and stresses of further imaging and care. Additionally, it could save the lives of Ohio patients. In women in the U.S., breast cancer is the most commonly-diagnosed cancer, and the second-leading cause of death. Early detection and treatment can make a significant difference in patient outcomes.

For these reasons, the OSMA urges the committee to support SB 121. As always, our organization appreciates the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us with any questions you may have.