



## Michael Hock

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Tims, and members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the chance to testify in favor of HB 33, and I agree with Rep. Johnson that this is a commonsense bill.

I'm in my 82nd year, a survivor, old enough to know complexity, and particularly the complexity of deciding what to do about prostate cancer. And I'm biased.

My bias? Believing men should have credible information about prostate cancer, about screening for it, and should not be prevented from getting screening because insurance does not cover testing costs.

Common sense? I'm also an old guy aware of the importance of focusing action on where it pays off the greatest, and where it's simple. This bill does that.

This bill focuses on screening coverage for men 40 and over who are high risk, men with a family history of prostate cancer, and simply requires insurances to cover preventative screenings for prostate cancer.

You'll find plenty of expert information in testimony about how frequent is prostate cancer, about how inequitable it is in its impact more on Black men than on others, about the complex history of confusing guidelines that have left many men too late tested and too soon facing advanced cancer.

What I want you to hear from me is that each man tested is a lesson in courage.

It's courageous to say "cancer," when you're not sure it's in you. It's courageous to decide to be tested. And the decision is complex — chance of death in the air, treatment practices that are scary, worries of incontinence and sexual function.

This bill takes one issue off the table for men at high risk. This bill makes the world a little simpler while a courageous man confronts a decision about how to care for himself as he reaches to become the best he can be.

Men with a family history of prostate cancer, men with a family history of multiple cancers, men with a known high-risk genomic mutation — this bill says "you matter," this bill takes one economic concern off the table, this bill opens the field to helpful information, costs little, and returns high value.

I would be happy to take any questions the committee may have, and thank you.