

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, and Members of the Insurance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 271. My name is Carol Beck, and I am a resident of East Liverpool, Ohio.

At age 62, I was diagnosed with breast cancer—a diagnosis that mirrored my mother's at the same age. My cancer was discovered through a routine screening mammogram, a screening I never missed. When my doctor called to schedule a diagnostic mammogram due to an abnormal spot on my left breast, I wasn't overly concerned, as this had happened before on my right breast. However, after the diagnostic mammogram, the radiologist informed me of an area of concern on my left breast and recommended a biopsy. The biopsy confirmed my worst fear: I had cancer.

My gynecologist ordered an MRI, which revealed another spot that the two mammograms had missed. This led to an ultrasound, another biopsy, and a final mammogram. My surgeon explained that I had hormone-negative, aggressive cancer and recommended a mastectomy due to the presence of two cancerous spots. Without the MRI, I would likely have undergone a lumpectomy, and the cancer could have continued to grow, potentially becoming fatal.

We also discussed the abnormal mammograms on my right side. I chose to be proactive and opted for a bilateral mastectomy. On March 15, 2024, I underwent a 6½-hour surgery to remove both breasts. Post-surgery pathology revealed precancerous cells in my right breast as well.

I am fortunate and privileged to have excellent insurance, but many women do not. They may forgo necessary supplemental testing due to out-of-pocket costs, choosing instead to provide for their families. All cancer patients deserve fair and equitable access to breast imaging that could save their lives.

As such, I support HB 271 and urge you to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.