

**Ohio Hospital Association
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 271
Ohio House Insurance Committee
May 27th, 2025**

Chairman Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Tims, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Hospital Association's 252 hospitals and 15 health systems, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 271, the Breast Examination and Screening Transformation (BEST) Act.

We commend Representatives Schmidt and Williams for introducing this legislation, which provides a smart, efficient update to Ohio's coverage policies for breast cancer screening and diagnostic services.

Breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in Ohio. Detecting cancer early leads to better health outcomes, shorter and less invasive treatment, and significantly lower long-term healthcare costs. When caught early, breast cancer treatment is more manageable for both the patient and the healthcare system.

House Bill 271 promotes early detection by ensuring coverage policies reflect current clinical standards. It streamlines access to screening mammograms, medically necessary supplemental screenings, and diagnostic follow-up tests such as biopsies.

This bill is a straightforward modernization of state law. House Bill 271 requires insurance and Medicaid to cover screening mammograms, supplemental screenings (like MRI or ultrasound for patients with dense breast tissue or other medical risk factors), and diagnostic testing when deemed necessary by a physician. It also eliminates cost-sharing for these services to avoid delays in diagnosis and reduce administrative overhead, and caps reimbursement for these services at 130% of the applicable Medicare rate while establishing a floor to ensure providers are not reimbursed below previously negotiated levels.

These provisions offer consistent expectations for payers, providers, and patients, reducing confusion, limiting unnecessary billing disputes, and ensuring sustainable provider participation.

Hospitals and health systems invest heavily in imaging technology, facilities, and skilled professionals for high-quality breast cancer detection. This legislation supports that infrastructure by offering reimbursement predictability and recognizes the cost of maintaining such vital services.

Without this kind of payment clarity, hospitals, especially those serving low-volume and/or high-Medicaid populations, face challenges maintaining access to advanced diagnostic services. House Bill 271 helps address that by ensuring providers are paid consistently for medically necessary care.

The BEST Act is thoughtful legislation that aligns with sound health policy and strong patient outcomes. **It does not expand programs – it makes existing benefits work more effectively.** House Bill 271 ensures physicians can act quickly on clinical concerns, hospitals and health systems can sustain diagnostic services, and patients receive timely care that prevents higher costs.

We thank the bill sponsors for their leadership and urge your support for House Bill 271.