



Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 198.

**My name is Shanise Pearce. I am a Triple Negative Breast Cancer survivor**, a wife, a mother, a patient advocate, and the Founder of The Advocate's Table, where I support individuals and families navigating cancer and survivorship.

I am submitting this testimony **on behalf of both BlackDoctor.org and The Advocate's Table**, in support of their shared commitment to improving health access, healing, and outcomes for Black communities and medically underserved populations.

My cancer story did not begin with diagnosis. It began with genetic testing that revealed I carry BRCA2 and PMS2 gene mutations and that I have Lynch Syndrome. These results meant my lifetime cancer risk was significantly higher. Because of this, I underwent years of screenings, preventative procedures, and ongoing monitoring. Even with all of this, in October 2023, I was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer, one of the most aggressive and fast-moving subtypes of breast cancer.

My treatment required Taxol and Carboplatin, multiple surgeries, and long recoveries. I have sat in the infusion chair. I have waited for results that would determine my future. I have looked into the eyes of my children and prayed that treatment would work. **I survived because I had timely access to care.**

I want to be clear. I support the intent of the 340B program. It was created to help low-income, uninsured, and medically vulnerable patients access lifesaving treatment. That intention is vital and must be protected.

However, even though SB 198 narrows the focus to certain 340B grantees, **there are still pathways for large hospital systems to financially benefit** by owning or partnering with these clinics. These ownership structures can be difficult to identify, which is why transparency into where 340B funds are flowing is essential.

The Legislature has already recognized this need. Covered entities are now required to submit reports detailing how 340B savings are used and reinvested. These reports are due July 2026 and will represent the first opportunity to understand whether patients are receiving the intended benefit of the program.

Moving forward with SB 198 before this data is available is premature. **Taking action without visibility risks unintended harm to patients and communities who are already facing barriers to care.**

This is not a question of whether 340B is needed. It is.

The question is whether it is being utilized responsibly.

We need the 2026 transparency data first.

Then we can evaluate reform.

Then we can make decisions based on fact, not assumption.

**For this reason, I respectfully ask the Committee to pause SB 198 until the required transparency report is available.** This approach protects the original mission of 340B to ensure that every patient, regardless of income or circumstance, can access the care they need to live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanise Pearce

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Patient Advocate and Survivor

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