

October 13,2021

To: The Ohio State House of Representatives

RE: H. B. 371 Breast Density Bill

My name is Diana Sutherland. I am a Nurse Practitioner at the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center; I treat patients with breast cancer. I see firsthand how this disease affects people lives and how a missed diagnosis can change the course of events.

I also have personal knowledge of what it feels like to have your cancer missed on mammogram. Just before my 47th birthday I had a mammogram; I had a lump in my left breast that felt much like one of the many cysts I tended to develop. I also have very dense breasts. At that time, I really didn't know the significance of what that meant, it wasn't talked about much. The mammogram did not show anything suspicious or unusual in my left breast. Because I was a nurse and able to advocate for myself, I asked my primary care doctor to send me to have the "cyst" drained because it was large and becoming bothersome. Thankfully she had the insight to send me to a surgeon who did in fact drain the cyst, but then reimaged my breast with ultrasound revealing another lump that didn't appear to be a cyst. She biopsied me in the office that day. Four days later I was told I had breast cancer, Stage II. The tumor was 3 cm about the size of a grape- but my 2D mammogram did not pick it up because of my breast density.

I thank God every day that I spoke up and asked to have further evaluation, I am so thankful that my PCP sent me to a surgeon and eternally grateful to that surgeon who went the extra step to look at my breast with the ultrasound. Had I waited even one more month my outcome could have been very different as I already had a micro metastasis in the nodes under my arm, my cancer was an aggressive type and could have spread quickly.

This bill is especially personal to me not only for myself, but for those patients I see every day who might have had a different outcome if we able were to provide them with additional screening because of their breast density.

Please give this most important bill your approval, you never know when it may affect your mother, wife, sister, daughter, or other women in your life. All women deserve the option to have this screening covered, it shouldn't have to come down to money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Diana Sutherland CNP