

Ohio Hospital Association
House Bill 371 - Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee
October 14, 2021

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chairman Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 371, which would expand access and coverage to medically necessary breast cancer screenings, including the most advanced and accurate technology.

The Ohio Hospital Association proudly represents 245 hospitals and 15 health systems across Ohio, including 191 acute care hospitals, 23 long-term acute care facilities, 31 psychiatric, rehabilitation, and specialty surgical hospitals, and 10 children's hospitals. Governed by a 20-member Board of Trustees representing small and large hospitals, teaching facilities and health care systems, OHA exists to collaborate with member hospitals to ensure a healthy Ohio.

Ohio hospitals are the cornerstones of the communities they serve, providing high-quality, leading-edge care to ill and injured patients while working to advance health and wellness in their communities. In addition to the diagnostic and therapeutic care our members provide, they also offer a full range of preventative services and screenings to help Ohioans stay healthy and avoid or delay the onset of disease.

For breast cancer, and many other health conditions, early diagnosis and timely, appropriate intervention are key to improving patient outcomes. We support HB 371 because it would ensure all patients, especially those at increased risk, have full access to the best available tools and technologies to catch breast cancer at its earliest stage.

By eliminating certain coverage limits for screening mammography and requiring coverage of supplemental breast cancer screening in specified circumstances, HB 371 promotes greater efficiency at breast cancer detection and empowers patients to pursue advanced, supplemental screenings that are determined to be medically necessary by their health care provider. In addition, helping individuals with dense breast tissue understand their potential and underlying risks, and the benefits of additional testing, is an improvement that can help save lives. Early detection of breast cancer leads not only to better treatment options, but also improves the chances of survival.

As we observe October as National Breast Cancer Awareness month, this is an opportune time for this committee to consider this important piece of legislation. OHA would like to thank Reps. Schmidt and Denson for championing this bill and this committee for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony. For all the reasons stated above, we support HB 371 and respectfully encourage its passage.