



Testimony in Support of House Bill 371
Before the House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee
Rachel Winder, Executive Director
Ohio Women's Coalition
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Chairwoman Manchester, Vice-Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Dr. Beth Liston and members of the House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony in support of House Bill 371 on behalf of the Ohio Women's Coalition (OWC).

My name is Rachel Winder and I am the Founding Executive Director of the Ohio Women's Coalition which is a new, statewide organization of women business owners advocating for women's economic growth in the state.

I am providing testimony today on behalf of the OWC in support of HB 371, sponsored by Representative Schmidt and Representative Denson, that would increase communication and access to life-saving healthcare for women and particularly women with dense breasts.

The bill would require insurance coverage of tomosynthesis which is simply the next generation of screening mammography providing a much better image to allow earlier detection of possible cancers. The bill would also better inform women with dense breasts of the risks associated with having dense breasts and likely result in an important conversation with their healthcare provider. Finally, the bill would require insurance coverage of supplemental screenings determined necessary for women with dense breasts and women with a family history of breast cancer when the initial screening is inconclusive.

According to a report by the Ohio Department of Health titled "Ohio Annual Cancer Report 2020", Breast Cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer incidence in Ohio. In addition, those incidences are increasing as shown by a 5% in breast cancer incidences from 2008 to 2017.

As business owners, the Ohio Women's Coalition understands that mandates can sometimes result in increased costs to the healthcare system which is already out of control. But as women, most with personal experiences related to the devastation of breast cancer, we are willing to pay a few extra dollars to save the lives of our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends, our employees and ourselves.

We urge your favorable vote of HB 371.