



Corporate Office

1077 Gorge Boulevard
Akron, Ohio 44310
tel 330-375-3000
summahealth.org

**Tracy Carter, MHSA
System Director, Government Relations
Summa Health**

**H.B. 371
Interested Party Testimony To The
Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee
Thursday, October 13, 2021**

To Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, and Ranking Member Liston, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony regarding H.B. 371. My name is Tracy Carter and I serve as government relations director for Summa Health of Akron, Ohio. Summa serves as the largest healthcare provider and employer serving the greater Akron region. Our mission is to provide the highest quality, compassionate care to our patients and members and to contribute to a healthier community.

We applaud Representatives Schmidt and Denson for advancing a policy proposal that would reduce barriers for Ohioans with dense breast tissue to access vital screening services. Because Summa is comprised of hospital and health plan entities, we have had an opportunity to provide supplemental screening, specifically the MRI option, to our employees who have dense breast tissue and meet certain high risk patient standards. The screenings help detect cancer earlier among our employee population. Early detection saves lives.

Our health plan experts estimate the average cost of breast health screening to be approximately \$3,000. If cancer is not detected early, individuals will likely experience advanced disease which costs approximately \$47,000-\$51,000 to treat. We trust there are additional non-healthcare costs one incurs when he or she is diagnosed with cancer.

We welcome an opportunity to partner with House leadership to further refine this proposal. We request greater clarity and input into the patient eligibility standards.

We also welcome House leadership to consider how men could be included in this proposal because we serve men who have a family history and other risks factors for breast cancer.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our feedback relative to H.B. 371.

Thank you for considering our perspective.