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Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
House Bill 371 Proponent Statement
Senate Health Committee
February 9, 2022

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 371 regarding notification and coverage for women with dense breast tissue. The Ohio Hematology Oncology Society represents nearly 200 oncologists and hematologists in Ohio who treat cancer patients in the private office (community) setting. Community oncology practices treat the majority of patients facing cancer. Our members are located in rural, suburban and urban settings. Practices range in size from 1 to 46 physicians, with most being in the 3-4 physician range.

The key to successful treatment of breast cancer is early detection. The earlier the detection, the more likely treatment will be successful. Barriers to early detection include education and coverage for screening. House Bill 371 will remove those barriers by providing information to women with dense breast tissue that they may want to consider additional screening and also provide coverage for those tests when appropriate.

House Bill 371 revises current law by eliminating certain coverage limits for screening mammography and by requiring coverage of supplemental breast cancer screening in specified circumstances. It also makes changes to the law governing written notice to mammography patients regarding dense breast tissue.

During the pandemic, our physician members have seen an increase in the number of patients with advanced stages of cancer. In many cases, cancer that could have been successfully treated had the patients not forgone their usual screening due to the pandemic. Screening provides a head start on treating cancers and House Bill 371 will help us get to patients sooner.

We encourage the committee members to support House Bill 371 and appreciate your consideration.

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