



The Honorable Matt Klein
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2105
St. Paul, MN 5515

RE: SF 329 – CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS

Dear Senator Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

On behalf of RAYUS Radiology, a network of multi-modality diagnostic imaging centers with twenty two locations throughout Minnesota, I am writing in strong support of SF 329. These bills seek to expand access to health care services with respect to the diagnosis of breast cancer by prohibiting cost-sharing requirements for follow-up diagnostic imaging.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women and, if not caught and treated early, is deadly. Due to prolonged restrictions on elective procedures and the subsequent delays in screening, nearly one third of women missed their annual screening mammography during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, studies from oncologists have shown patients are presenting with more advanced-stage cancers – one study showed that 1.9% of patients presented with stage IV breast cancer in 2019, while 6.2% did in 2020 - a threefold increase. Further, studies have shown that the percentage of patients with an initial abnormal screening that did not receive recommended follow-up ranged from nearly 25% to over 70% depending upon geographic region.

Cost remains the largest factor in missed follow-up care. A Komen Foundation-commissioned study found that costs to patients for diagnostic tests range from \$234 for a diagnostic mammogram to \$1,021 for a breast MRI. The disparity in follow-up was found to be higher in disadvantaged and underserved communities. This additional cost can be especially onerous for patients who are breast cancer survivors, as higher modalities of screening are recommended over regular mammography. As an outpatient, free standing, diagnostic imaging provider, RAYUS aims to deliver the highest quality of care without these substantial costs, but we stand in support of removing any barrier to care.

A patient's inability to pay should not prevent them from obtaining a potential lifesaving, and cost saving, early diagnosis. This legislation to ensure patient ability to receive diagnostic mammography services, breast MRI and ultrasound will save lives.

Sincerely yours,

James Sullivan, M.D.
Twin Cities Medical Director