

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LINDA FEATHERSTON  
16TH DISTRICT

Dear Chair Dietrich, Vice Chair Fagg, Ranking Member Miller and members of the committee,

I write to you today in support of SB 409, which expands access to diagnostic mammograms. As you may know this access passed the House floor in 2024. Although it did not survive the conference committee process, coverage was added to the State Employee Health Plan that year.

Despite what special interests may tell you, this is not a new mandate. The Legislature mandated mammography coverage in 1988. At that time, today's initial screening mammogram was the best technology available. This bill simply catches policy up to technology. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service have declared this to be a cost share, not a mandate. The current fiscal note on HB 2296 (the most recent similar bill) specifically refers to 'cost-sharing requirements.' It also notes, that this will not cost the state anything.

Although this may not be the most pressing issue in Kansas, I can guarantee you that it is an issue that has affected nearly every one of your constituents in some way. SB 409 will save lives. 20% of women do not return for a follow up screening if there is a cost. While not all of these women will have cancer, simple logic tells us that things are only going to get worse for those who delay treatment. The survival rate for stage 1 breast cancer is 98% - 100%. The survival rate can fall to as low as 66% at stage 3. SB 409 will save money. End stage breast cancer treatment is more than twice the cost of early treatment.

Throughout my cancer journey, I have been blessed to have the financial resources to have every test and treatment that was recommended by my doctor. I cannot help but think about women who do not have this privilege. Just this past December, I had to have follow up screenings and tests. The cost was over \$500 after insurance. How many of your constituents would be able to afford that right before Christmas?

I ask that you prioritize women's health and vote YES on SB 409.

Sincerely,

Rep. Linda Featherston, HD 16