

Testimony submitted to the Kansas Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

Chair Senator Brenda Dietrich

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Submitted by Peggy L Johnson, Wichita, Kansas

SB 409

Senator Dietrich and members of the Committee, I much appreciate the opportunity to talk with you today about SB. 409 My name is Peggy Johnson, I live in Wichita and am a 14 year breast cancer survivor. I appreciate the time to talk to you today about an important issue for all women. I have been a breast cancer/cancer advocate for 36 years. I helped bring the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure to Wichita in 1990. We were very successful and raised money to provide mammograms to women in Kansas without the means to do so for themselves and provides money to support and develop research for breast cancer. I am also an active volunteer with the Kansas University Cancer Center in Kansas City. I sit on a number of committees and boards and recently retired as Chair of the KUCC Community Advisory Board.

In 2012 I was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. At the time there was little known about this type of breast cancer and there were no unique treatments for it. I was Ex. Director of Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation and had great insurance. Mammograms were covered by my insurance as was for all women. BUT once there was a concern, any additional tests were at the expense of the patient and her insurance. As I said I had good insurance, but by the time we had a definitive diagnosis I had used up my \$2000 co-insurance. I had the money in savings, not all women are so fortunate. I went on to have chemotherapy and 35 rounds of radiation treatments. Apparently my treatment was successful, I am here today. But not all women have the finances to support the additional tests to get a definitive diagnosis.

The subject of SB 409 is important to women who have health insurance, but need additional tests after a screening mammogram and will need to pay for those additional tests out of pocket. This subject has had a long road to get here today. We have asked before and now we are asking again. We need your help. We know women put off the additional tests, often at the high risk of finding a viable treatment after delaying. These women usually show up months later with stage 4 cancer, which has little or no treatment options. Susan G Komen and the American Cancer Society believe patients need a definitive diagnosis as soon as possible to receive the very best treatment for the disease.

Many patients will go through additional tests to be told they do not have cancer, but many who will delay those tests will find their options for treatments have changed and involvement more treatment and more side effects, more time off of work, and the possibility of little or no options.

I ask for your help today. Please lets not delay this important fix any longer.

Thank you for your time and I would be glad to answer any questions.