



Leading Radiology Forward
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TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Steve Forthuber, President Eastern Operations

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT:** Senate Bill (SB) 938 -- *Maryland Department of Health – Public Education Campaign on Prostate, Lung, and Breast Cancer Prevention*

RadNet leads the nation in outpatient diagnostic imaging services with nearly 400 centers in eight states. RadNet has a major presence in Maryland and our Eastern Operations are headquartered in Baltimore. You may know us locally as Advanced Radiology, Community Radiology Associates, and American Radiology Associates with over 60 imaging centers throughout the state. RadNet is the largest provider of screening mammography and low-dose CT screenings for lung cancer in Maryland. We are an innovator in MRI-based screening for prostate cancer.

SB 938 would require the Maryland Department of Health to develop and implement a public education campaign on prostate, lung, and breast cancer prevention that targets communities disproportionately impacted by prostate, lung, and breast cancer.

An estimated 3,500 Marylanders die from lung, breast, and prostate cancer each year. Yet, screening exists for all of these cancers and imaging can detect them at their earliest stage when more treatment options are available and outcomes are better. Breast, lung, and prostate cancers affect the African-American community disproportionately. Cancer screening rates are lower among racial and ethnic minorities. As a result, cancers are detected in later stages leading to worse outcomes.

No Marylander should be left behind in the fight against breast, lung, and prostate cancer. A public education campaign targeting communities disproportionately affected by these cancers as proposed by SB 938 is an important first step toward cancer health equity. As community-based providers on the front-line of cancer, our mission is to ensure that everyone in Maryland has ready, equitable, and affordable access to state-of-the-art imaging that will detect and diagnose breast, lung, and prostate cancers at their earliest stage. This dedication has allowed RadNet to close the breast cancer screening compliance gap between African-American and White women.

RadNet appreciates the opportunity to provide this statement before Senate Finance Committee.