



February 24, 2026

In support of House Bill 1364 – Public Health – Mammograms – Arterial Calcification Notice

Dear Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Dr. Lisa Mullen. I am a breast imaging radiologist at Johns Hopkins Medicine, and I am the Immediate Past President of the Maryland Radiological Society. I am writing in support of House Bill 1364, on behalf of the Maryland Radiological Society.

Annual screening mammography is recommended for women of average risk, starting at age 40, with additional guidelines for women at higher-than-average risk. The purpose of mammography is early detection of breast cancer. Screening mammography has been shown to significantly decrease mortality from breast cancer in multiple clinical trials.

There is increasing data to suggest that mammography could serve as a screening tool for a completely different medical problem, cardiovascular disease. Mammograms can detect calcifications in the walls of the arteries in the breast, known as breast arterial calcification, or “BAC”. There is growing literature to suggest a correlation between BAC and cardiovascular risk. If BAC is detected on mammography, the patient may be at risk for cardiovascular disease, such as heart attack and stroke. The presence of BAC on a mammogram may be first indication that an asymptomatic patient could be at risk for one of these serious and life-altering diseases.

Knowledge is power. Informing women of the presence of BAC is important and empowering, as it gives a woman the opportunity to discuss these findings with her physician, review her cardiovascular risk, and potentially undergo additional testing and treatment for cardiovascular disease.

Currently, there are no guidelines for measuring, reporting, or managing BAC found on mammograms, and no requirements for reporting BAC. Please vote favorably for House Bill 1364, which will require reporting of the presence of BAC directly to patients in the mammography result letter. Reporting BAC will empower women to discuss cardiovascular risk assessment. We already know that mammography saves lives through early detection of breast cancer; now mammography may help save lives of Maryland women by detecting risk of cardiovascular disease.

Thank you for your consideration.

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