



Leading Radiology Forward
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TO: The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Members, House Health Committee

FROM: Steve Forthuber, President Eastern Operations

DATE: February 20, 2026

RE: **FAVORABLE** – House Bill (HB) 1364 (Public Health – Mammograms – Arterial Calcification Notice)

RadNet leads the nation in outpatient diagnostic imaging services with 430 centers across the United States. In Maryland, our Eastern Operations are headquartered in Baltimore, and we serve patients through contracted medical practices of Advanced Radiology, Community Radiology Associates, and American Radiology Associates, with more than 60 imaging centers statewide. RadNet offers state-of-the-art mammography and we are the largest provider of screening mammography in Maryland. We are deeply committed to population health through the early detection of diseases and the breaking down of barriers so that all Marylanders have access to these services.

HB 1364 requires mammography centers to include in their federally required patient results letter (so called “lay letter”) a notice: (1) when breast arterial calcification (BAC) is identified on a mammogram and (2) informing patients that BAC is a common finding but may be associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and encouraging discussion with their physician. HB 1364 also allows the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to update the notice if future medical evidence warrants modification.

RadNet supports this legislation for several important reasons:

1. Mammography as an Opportunity for Broader Preventive Health

Mammography is one of the most widely utilized preventive screening tools in medicine. For many women, it may be their most consistent interaction with the health care system. When BAC is identified on a mammogram, it can serve as a valuable marker of potential cardiovascular risk. Providing standardized, patient-friendly notice promotes awareness and empowers patients to have informed conversations with their physicians.

2. Cardiovascular Disease Remains the Leading Cause of Death

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death among women. Many women underestimate their cardiovascular risk, and risk factors often go undiagnosed until a serious event occurs. By encouraging follow-up discussion when BAC is present, HB 1364 leverages an existing screening encounter to advance earlier identification and risk assessment—potentially preventing future cardiovascular adverse events.

3. Thoughtful, Balanced, and Protective Language

The bill appropriately clarifies that the notice requirement does not create a new standard of care or a basis for a cause of action. It also provides flexibility by allowing MDH to update the notice based on future medical evidence. This structure ensures that the policy remains aligned with evolving science while providing certainty to imaging providers.

4. Minimal Operational Burden

Because federal law already requires patient notification letters following screening mammography, this bill simply standardizes additional language within an existing communication framework. Implementation can be accomplished efficiently through updates to reporting templates, with minimal administrative burden.

RadNet believes HB 1364 represents a balanced, patient-centered approach to improving cardiovascular awareness through an established preventive screening pathway. By informing patients about BAC findings and encouraging dialogue with their physicians, Maryland can advance preventive care without increasing barriers to access.

We commend Speaker Peña-Melnyk for her leadership on this important population health issue and respectfully recommend a favorable report on HB 1364.

RadNet appreciates the opportunity to provide this statement before House Health Committee.