

**SB0965\_FAV\_MedChi, MDCSCO, MACHC, MDACOG\_Breast &**

Uploaded by: Danna Kauffman

Position: FAV



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



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TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Joanne C. Benson

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Andrew G. Vetter  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

DATE: March 21, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 965 – *Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing*

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On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** Senate Bill 965.

Senate Bill 965 addresses both breast and lung cancer. Diagnostic breast examinations or supplemental breast examinations are essential tools in the screening and diagnosis of breast cancer. An abnormal result from a breast cancer screen may require additional imaging, including mammographic views, ultrasound, or less frequently magnetic resonance imaging, to exclude or confirm the existence of cancer. However, many women, especially in marginalized populations, are not able to pay the required cost sharing for these potential life-saving tests. Too often, women then delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body or has significantly worsened, decreasing the survival rate, and resulting in increased health care costs. These same concerns arise with the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. As such, Senate Bill 965 requires commercial carriers to provide coverage for recommended follow-up diagnostic imaging to assist in the diagnosis of lung cancer for individuals for which lung cancer screening is recommended by the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force.

Therefore, the above-named organizations urge a favorable vote on Senate Bill 965.

# **SB965 - Breast and Lung Cancer - Establishment of**

Uploaded by: Martha Nathanson

Position: FAV

SB965 – Breast and Lung Cancer - Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing - Position: **SUPPORT**

Senate Finance Committee – March 21, 2023

Testimony of Martha D. Nathanson, Esq., Vice President, Government Relations and Community Development, LifeBridge Health

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I am writing in SUPPORT of SB965. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County, and; Grace Medical Center in Baltimore (formerly Bon Secours Hospital).

SB965 requires payers to provide insurance coverage and to waive patient copays and deductibles for supplemental diagnostic breast and lung imaging. As a means of addressing health disparities and improving patient management of chronic disease, it mandates a patient educational campaign to overcome misperceptions and stigmas about breast and lung cancer screening.

Screening for breast and lung cancer saves lives:

- Screening mammography has no patient out-of-pocket costs, but patients face copays and deductibles for supplemental diagnostic breast imaging exams. Aggressive forms of breast cancer can double in size within a year. Fortunately, breast cancer screening (mammography) has played a significant role in reducing breast cancer mortality by 41% since 1989. A recent study drew a strong correlation between educational levels attained, income and type of insurance and the tendency to skip supplemental diagnostic breast imaging.<sup>1</sup>
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths nationally and in Maryland.<sup>2</sup> Annual low-dose CT (LDCT) for lung cancer screening has been shown to reduce lung cancer mortality for at-risk patients by 20 percent. Only 7 percent of eligible Marylanders were screened for lung cancer.<sup>3</sup> Of the patients who get screened for lung cancer, only 20% return the next year (annual screening is recommended) and are compliant to their screening regimen. Compliance with follow-up CT imaging for suspicious findings is low. (NLCRT 2022)

In our recent Community Health Needs Assessments for hospitals within the LifeBridge Health system, health disparities and access to insurance were “Identified Needs” for our service areas, and SB965 will direct resources toward community residents who would most benefit from earlier supplemental screening as well as an educational initiative to increase screening opportunities.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB965.

Contact: Martha D. Nathanson, Esq.  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development  
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<sup>1</sup> [https://press.rsna.org/timssnet/media/pressreleases/14\\_pr\\_target.cfm?id=2394](https://press.rsna.org/timssnet/media/pressreleases/14_pr_target.cfm?id=2394)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/maryland>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/maryland>

# **Testimony SB965 Breast and Lung Cancer Establishme**

Uploaded by: Senator Benson

Position: FAV

JOANNE C. BENSON  
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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Education, Business and  
Administration Subcommittee  
Pensions Subcommittee  
Chair, Rules Committee

*Joint Committees*

Audit and Evaluation Committee  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Ending Homelessness  
Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight  
Joint Committee on Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson

SB965: Breast and Lung Cancer - Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing

Good Afternoon Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee. I am here to present SB965 Breast and Lung Cancer - Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing.

The United States of America loses over forty-seven thousand people to breast cancer a year and over two-hundred thousand to lung cancer. Over half a million people have been diagnosed with lung cancer at some point in their life. The sad reality is that almost everyone in this room knows someone who has been diagnosed with breast or lung cancer and the stress it causes families and loved ones. Surviving cancer is half of the battle, the other half is the financial burden left on the survivors and their families. Time and money is essential in beating this disease because the cancer may progress while some people try to save money or locate means to meet their demands since they cannot afford to undergo all the necessary treatments and screenings.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a Breast and Lung Cancer Screening Awareness Program within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). This legislation would require insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations (also known as carriers) to provide coverage for breast cancer diagnosis and associated "diagnostic imaging" and follow-up diagnostic imaging to assist in the diagnosis of lung cancer, subject to specified cost-sharing limitations. This program will help individuals to be proactive in their cancer journey and provide a sense of financial relief while enduring the gruesome reality of this disease. This is more than a piece of legislation, this is a movement to help save our loved ones and provide financial support during their trying times.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB965.

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Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary  
March 21, 2023

The Honorable Melanie Griffith  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

### **RE: SB 965 – Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing – Letter of Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 965 - Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing. SB 965 establishes a breast and lung cancer screening awareness program in MDH, requires insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for breast and lung cancer diagnostic imaging, and limits the copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement for those procedures.

MDH supports efforts to raise awareness of the importance of cancer screening. MDH currently funds local health departments (LHDs) and health systems to provide low-income, uninsured, and underinsured Maryland residents with no-cost breast and lung cancer screening and diagnostic services through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Cigarette Restitution Fund Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment Program. These programs also provide patient navigation services, including transportation assistance, to their clients regardless of insurance status. MDH funding is also used by LHDs and health systems to provide education on cancer screening to the public.

MDH understands that the crossfile of this bill, HB 815, has been amended in the House. Instead of requiring MDH to establish an additional screening program, it will require MDH to conduct an assessment on current outreach, education, and health disparities in cancer screening, including the availability of biomarker testing in the State. In conducting this assessment, MDH will be required to establish a stakeholder workgroup to advise on the state of current cancer screening and make recommendations on an outreach plan to educate communities negatively impacted by health disparities in cancer screening and cancer care. MDH recognizes the importance of evaluating existing programs, as well as including stakeholders with lived experiences in development of future outreach plans, and supports these amendments. MDH supports SB 965 with the amendments adopted for HB 815.



If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott".

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary