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February 5, 2023

Re: SB 0184 Health Insurance: Diagnostic and Supplemental Examinations for Breast Cancer – Cost-Sharing

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the over 800 members, the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM), and the over 8,000 Nurse Practitioners licensed to practice in Maryland, I am writing in support of **SB 0184 Health Insurance: Diagnostic and Supplemental Examinations for Breast Cancer – Cost-Sharing**.

This bill would prohibit insurers, nonprofit health service plan, and health maintenance organizations that provide coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement for the examination resulting in increased access to care for all Marylanders.

The personal and economic burden of breast cancer is great, and Maryland is currently facing an increase number of patients who present with later stage cancers. Early screening and follow-up studies and imaging as indicated must be accessible to all our citizens. Unfortunately, high deductibles, high co-pays, and extreme out-of-pocket expenses are further burdening some of our most marginalized populations.

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland is in full support of **SB 184 Health Insurance: Diagnostic and Supplemental Examinations for Breast Cancer – Cost-Sharing** and we ask that the Committee vote in favor of this bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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