



March 21, 2023

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong **favorable** support for Senate Bill 184 - Health Insurance - Diagnostic and supplemental examinations for Breast Cancer - Cost-Sharing. **This bill is on the 2023 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

This bill prohibits insurance companies, nonprofit health service plans, and other health maintenance organizations that provide coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement to perform diagnostic imaging and supplemental examinations for breast cancer. Additionally, if implemented, this bill will cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred from the examinations for individuals with an increased risk of developing breast cancer, based on personal and family history.

Today, Black women are disproportionately impacted by breast cancer and are often diagnosed at a later stage, resulting in a higher mortality rate. There are many present disparities in cancer detection, and this bill aims to remedy and close the financial gap impacting many Black Marylanders. For many, this bill will prove to be a true saving grace, in that it aids and alleviates the strain often associated with paying for necessary examinations. If implemented, this legislation will provide resources and access to fair and equal coverage for those who need it most, saving the lives of many Marylanders. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports Senate Bill 184. Thank you.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland