



MITA[®]
**MEDICAL IMAGING
 & TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE**
 A DIVISION OF **NEMA**[®]

1300 North 17th Street • Suite 900
 Arlington, Virginia 22209
 Tel: 703.841.3200
 Fax: 703.841.3392
 www.medicalimaging.org

March 2, 2023

Re: House Bill 815: Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing

Dear Delegates Fennell, Barnes, Ivey, and Sample-Hughes:

As the premier trade association representing the manufacturers of medical imaging equipment, radiopharmaceuticals, contrast media, and focused ultrasound devices, the Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA) is writing in support of House Bill 815 that would establish a screening awareness program for breast and lung cancer and eliminating cost-sharing for supplemental and diagnostic screening exams for these cancers.

MITA member companies have introduced innovative medical imaging technologies to the market, including low-dose computed tomography (CT), high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU), novel imaging agents, and advanced artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms. These technologies play an essential role in our nation’s health care infrastructure and the care pathways of screening, staging, evaluating, managing, and effectively treating patients with cancer, heart disease, neurological degeneration, COVID-19, and numerous other medical conditions.

Screening saves lives, but is currently underutilized, resulting in unnecessary suffering, death, and healthcare costs. As part of the Healthy People 2030 initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has established screening targets and objectives for the US population. Appropriate utilization of imaging-based screening exams can help meet these targets.

We are still falling short of meeting these targets, and we must do more to promote access and adherence to screening exams:

	Baseline	Target
Females who get screened for breast cancer ¹	76.4% (2019)	80.5%
Adults who get screened for lung cancer ²	4.5% (2015)	7.5%

¹ <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/increase-proportion-females-who-get-screened-breast-cancer-c-05>

² <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/cancer/increase-proportion-adults-who-get-screened-lung-cancer-c-03>

Under-utilization of critical screening services was further compounded during the COVID-19 pandemic. As has been reported, screening fell dramatically over the last few years, potentially increasing the burden of cancer and other disease on the American public.^{3,4,5,6}

Screening is also often underutilized in underserved populations, exacerbating health inequities.^{7,8} The overall rate of cancer screening is lower among racial and ethnic minority populations, compared to the white population. Further, cancer outcomes are often worse in minority populations compared to the white population.⁹

This bill would increase access to breast imaging modalities including mammography, digital breast tomosynthesis, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and ultrasound. Each modality is appropriate for different patients, but all can contribute to detecting disease at an earlier stage, reducing disease burden, mortality, and healthcare costs. Likewise, the bill ensures greater awareness and coverage of lung cancer screening tools such as low-dose CT screens that help detect lung cancer earlier.

It is for these reasons that we support HB 815. Making patients aware of the value of screening and reducing the financial burden of supplemental and diagnostic imaging will help to ensure that more cancers are caught early, resulting in more lives saved.

* * * *

³ Changes in Cancer Screening in the US During the COVID-19 Pandemic, JAMA, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2792956>

⁴ Association of Cancer Screening Deficit in the United States With the COVID-19 Pandemic, JAMA Oncology <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33914015/>

⁵ A national quality improvement study identifying and addressing cancer screening deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cancer, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35307815/>

⁶ The Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screening: Challenges and Opportunities, JMIR Cancer, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7599065/>

⁷ <https://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=imc&pag=dis&ItemID=139085>

⁸ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-cancer-outcomes-screening-and-treatment/>

⁹ *ibid*

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Weems, Senior Director of Policy & Strategy, at 703-841-3238 or by email at pweems@medicalimaging.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Hope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick Hope
Executive Director, MITA

MITA is the collective voice of medical imaging equipment and radiopharmaceutical manufacturers, innovators and product developers. It represents companies whose sales comprise more than 90 percent of the global market for medical imaging technology. These technologies include: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), medical X-Ray equipment, computed tomography (CT) scanners, ultrasound, nuclear imaging, radiopharmaceuticals, and imaging information systems. Advancements in medical imaging are transforming health care through earlier disease detection, less invasive procedures and more effective treatments. The industry is extremely important to American healthcare and noted for its continual drive for innovation, fast-as-possible product introduction cycles, complex technologies, and multifaceted supply chains. Individually and collectively, these attributes result in unique concerns as the industry strives toward the goal of providing patients with the safest, most advanced medical imaging currently available.