



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 815 – Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill (HB) 815 - Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing. HB 815 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 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. Additionally, MDH notes that the Maryland Insurance Administration's Consumer Education and Advocacy Unit is already designated under state law as having the primary responsibility for all consumer education related to health insurance.

MDH also notes that HB 815 specifies the types of breast and lung cancer diagnostic imaging that should be covered by insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations. As the types and indications for the use of diagnostic imaging may change in the normal course of scientific advancement, MDH recommends that they not be listed in statute.

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 or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

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