



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Tiffany T. Alston

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: March 27, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1259 – *Health Insurance – Breast and Lung Cancer Screening – Coverage Requirements*

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1259.

House Bill 1259 expands health insurance coverage for breast and lung cancer screening. The bill adds image-guided breast biopsies to the definition of supplemental breast examinations, which is an essential tool in the screening and diagnosis of breast cancer. Image-guided breast biopsies are highly accurate and minimally invasive. They typically require smaller incisions, preserving healthy breast tissue and they remove less breast tissue compared to surgical biopsies. Additionally, the bill requires insurers to provide coverage for recommended lung cancer screening. As two of the deadliest cancers in the United States, we support updating the coverage requirements to include these early screenings for breast and lung cancer. Many people, especially in marginalized populations, are not able to pay the required cost sharing for these potential life-saving tests. Too often, people 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. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.