

March 5, 2024

Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 1259 - Health Insurance - Breast and Lung Cancer Screening - Coverage Requirements

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of AdvaMed, the MedTech Association, and the AdvaMed Medical Imaging Division, we are writing in support of HB 1259, a bill increasing access to lung and breast cancer screening and diagnosis by reducing the burden of patient cost-sharing. Simply, this legislation will help save lives and allow more families to enjoy additional meaningful moments together.

AdvaMed is the largest association representing medical technology innovators and manufacturers. Our members are the device, diagnostics, medical imaging, and digital technology manufacturers transforming health care through earlier disease detection, less invasive procedures, and more effective treatments. They range from the smallest startups to multinational corporations.

AdvaMed Medical Imaging Division represents the manufacturers of medical imaging equipment and focused ultrasound devices. Our members have introduced innovative medical imaging technologies to the market, and they 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.

We commend Maryland for its leadership on this critical issue for patients. The rate of lung cancer screening for those who are eligible was shown to be at 5.8% in 2022.¹ Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and half of patients are not diagnosed until their cancer has spread beyond their lungs and lymph nodes.²

Screening is also often underutilized in underserved populations, exacerbating health inequities.^{3,4} The 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.⁵

Additionally, 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.^{6,7,8,9}

Screening saves lives, reduces suffering, and lowers costs for patients. Unfortunately, it is underutilized. This legislation enables patients – and their families – to focus solely on what is best for their health, rather than on whether or not they can afford needed, life-saving exams.

AdvaMed and the AdvaMed Medical Imaging Division are proud to support this legislation that puts patients first.

Sincerely,



Roxy Kozycky
Senior Director, State Government
and Regional Affairs
AdvaMed



Adrienne Frederick
Senior Manager, Health Policy & State
Government Affairs
AdvaMed Medical Imaging Division

¹ <https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/state-of-lung-cancer-2022#:~:text=The%202022%20%E2%80%9CState%20of%20Lung,rates%20as%20low%20as%201%25.>

² <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/lung-cancer-screening>

³ <https://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=imc&paq=dis&ItemID=139085>

⁴ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-cancer-outcomes-screening-and-treatment/>

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ Changes in Cancer Screening in the US During the COVID-19 Pandemic, JAMA, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2792956>

⁷ Association of Cancer Screening Deficit in the United States With the COVID-19 Pandemic, JAMA Oncology <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33914015/>

⁸ 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/>

⁹ The Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screening: Challenges and Opportunities, JMIR Cancer, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7599065/>

