MedChi



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Senate Finance Committee February 12, 2025

Senate Bill 518: *Health Insurance – Screening for Ovarian Cancer – Required Coverage and Prohibited Cost Sharing*

POSITION: OPPOSE

On behalf of The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we submit this letter of opposition to Senate Bill 518, which would require health insurance carriers to provide an individual at least 45 years old with coverage for preventive screenings for ovarian cancer, including magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography scans.

Ovarian cancer is the second most common gynecologic cancer in the United States. Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. Despite this, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends against screening for ovarian cancer in asymptomatic women.

Specifically, the USPSTF "found adequate evidence that screening for ovarian cancer does not reduce ovarian cancer mortality. The USPSTF found adequate evidence that the harms from screening for ovarian cancer are at least moderate and may be substantial in some cases, and include unnecessary surgery for women who do not have cancer. Given the lack of mortality benefit of screening, and the moderate to substantial harms that could result from false-positive screening test results and subsequent surgery, the USPSTF concludes with moderate certainty that the harms of screening for ovarian cancer outweigh the benefit, and the net balance of the benefit and harms of screening is negative."

MedChi and MDCSCO support the USPSTF's recommendations. As such, we urge an unfavorable vote.

For more information call:

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¹ Recommendation by the USPSTF - ovarian-cancer-final-rec-statement.pdf