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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 10, 2025

To: Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Finance Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our unanimous support for SB476: Health Insurance - Genetic Testing and Cancer Imaging - Required Coverage and Prohibited Cost-Sharing. This critical legislation is a necessary step in ensuring that Marylanders—particularly women—have access to essential, evidence-based cancer prevention and early detection services without financial barriers.

As you are aware, cancer remains one of the leading causes of death among women, with breast and ovarian cancers posing significant risks. Many women have a genetic predisposition to these and other cancers, yet the high cost of genetic testing and follow-up imaging often prevents them from obtaining the proactive care they need. By requiring insurance providers to cover genetic testing for individuals with an increased risk of developing cancer and ensuring access to necessary follow-up imaging without burdensome copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles, SB476 removes a major financial obstacle to life-saving early detection and prevention.

Ensuring that women have access to timely and affordable cancer screening is essential to improving health outcomes and reducing mortality rates. Too often, women—particularly those from low-income and underserved communities—delay or forgo critical screenings due to cost concerns. This legislation will help close the gap in health disparities, empower women to take charge of their health, and ultimately save lives.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the Finance Committee to issue a favorable report for SB476. By passing this legislation, Maryland will take a significant step toward prioritizing preventive health care, supporting women's health, and reducing cancer-related deaths across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your continued dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders.