



Memorandum In Support of HB 974 – Delegate Shetty

House Health & Government Operations Committee

February 20, 2025

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the nonprofit nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. ACS CAN empowers cancer patients, survivors, their families and other experts on the disease, amplifying their voices and public policy matters that are relevant to the cancer community at all levels of government. We support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. On behalf of our constituents, many of whom have been personally affected by cancer, we stand in strong support of HB 974.

Preventive care services recommended by United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) are crucial for maintaining strong public health, and impeding patients' access to preventive care would have an immediate and devastating impact. The Affordable Care Act preventive services provision requiring private insurers cover USPSTF-recommended services without cost sharing increases patients' ability to receive care that can prevent disease outright, identify conditions early, improve survival rates and reduce the physical and financial burdens of treating severe illnesses. Detecting severe diseases early allows for less invasive, more effective, and lower-cost treatment options, and substantially improves patient outcomes. The ACA's preventive-care requirements have functioned for more than ten years, enabling millions of Americans to obtain preventive care and improving utilization of these vital services nationwide.

Current litigation threatens to erode more than a decade of progress reducing cancer deaths and suffering. Having guaranteed, no-cost coverage of proven preventive and screening services—like those for breast, colorectal, cervical, and lung cancer—has enabled more people to get timely, life-saving screenings without facing potentially unaffordable out-of-pocket costs. Research has repeatedly shown the benefit of these screenings in both lives and dollars saved. Before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, high costs and unclear coverage were repeatedly cited among the top reasons people delayed or skipped screenings. We cannot risk returning to a system wherein every individual has to interpret their complex insurance plans to determine if a recommended mammogram will be covered or to determine how much their colonoscopy may cost.

ACS CAN thanks the Chair and committee for the opportunity to testify and urges a favorable report of HB 974.