



ALLIANCE FOR BREAST CANCER POLICY

October 20, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis Act

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the Alliance for Breast Cancer Policy, and the undersigned organizations, we write in support of the Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD) Act of 2025, H.R. 3037. This bipartisan legislation would remove financial barriers for timely, medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging for millions, improving access to early detection for people across the country.

The Alliance for Breast Cancer Policy is a coalition of leading advocacy organizations working together to improve access, affordability, quality and ultimately outcomes for people facing breast cancer. With more than 4 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S.,¹ the Alliance is dedicated to patient-centered, evidence-based breast cancer policy.

¹ <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html#:~:text=At%20this%20time%20there%20are%C2%A0more%20than%204%20million%20breast%20cancer%20survivors%20in%20the%20United%20States.%20This%C2%A0includes%20women%20still%20being%20treated%20and%20those%20who%20have%20completed%20treatment.>

Gaps in Breast Cancer Screening

Currently, diagnostic and supplemental imaging often carries significant out-of-pocket costs that too many cannot afford. Under current law, most health insurers must cover screening mammograms for women aged 40 and older without imposing out-of-pocket costs.² However, screening mammography is only the initial step in the early detection process and sometimes insufficient for those at a higher risk of developing breast cancer. The resulting follow-up from abnormal findings or required imaging for those for whom screening mammography is insufficient can come at a staggering cost. Breast cancer remains a leading cause of death among women, with an estimated one in 43 women expected to die from the disease.³ A contributing factor is that potentially more than 378,000 women may forego initial screening mammograms due to the fear of high out-of-pocket expenses from follow-up imaging that may follow.⁴ The costs for diagnostic and supplemental imaging can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars out of pocket, an unaffordable burden for many patients.

Delays in follow-up imaging can result in later-stage diagnoses and significantly worse patient outcomes. This is more pronounced for specific communities, including Black women who are 38% more likely to die from breast cancer and often experience delays in follow-up imaging after receiving abnormal results.⁵ Similarly, women in rural areas have limited access to mammograms and diagnostic imaging.⁶ Hispanic women are 33% more likely to skip or delay follow-up breast cancer imaging.⁷ Furthermore, as compared to white individuals, the breast cancer incidence rate is 8% higher for non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native individuals, while the mortality rate jumps to 31% higher⁸. Another survey found that almost 40% of patients would skip recommended follow-up diagnostic imaging due to cost with those with a household income of less than \$35,000 representing the highest percentage of individuals saying they would need to skip.⁹ Addressing these problems in access and affordability is essential in ensuring equitable, timely access to breast cancer care.

² <https://www.facingourrisk.org/privacy-policy-legal/laws-protections/ACA/screening-preventive-services/mammograms>

³ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures/2024/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures-2024.pdf>

⁴ [https://www.fightcancer.org/releases/new-report-highlights-cost-barriers-associated-diagnostic-tests-breast-cancer#:~:text=Approximately%20378%2C000%20more%20women%20were%20likely%20to%20skip%20future%20mammograms%20\(in%202024\)%20due%20to%20fear%20of%20subsequent%20out%2Dof%2Dpocket%20cost%20sharing%20from%20follow%2Dup%20diagnostic%20tests](https://www.fightcancer.org/releases/new-report-highlights-cost-barriers-associated-diagnostic-tests-breast-cancer#:~:text=Approximately%20378%2C000%20more%20women%20were%20likely%20to%20skip%20future%20mammograms%20(in%202024)%20due%20to%20fear%20of%20subsequent%20out%2Dof%2Dpocket%20cost%20sharing%20from%20follow%2Dup%20diagnostic%20tests)

⁵ <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21874>

⁶ Rural-Urban Differences in Breast Cancer Stage at Diagnosis - PMC

⁷ Effect of a High-Deductible Health Plan on Patients' Willingness to Undergo Indicated Breast Imaging | Radiology

⁸ Cancer statistics for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals, 2022: Including increasing disparities in early onset colorectal cancer - Kratzer - 2023 - CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians - Wiley Online Library

⁹ <https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/10.1148/radiol.222952>

Policy Solutions & the ABCD Act

States have individually sought to address this gap in care, with 36 states passing legislation to end patient cost sharing for diagnostic and/or supplemental breast imaging. These bills expand affordable access to needed breast imaging, seeking earlier detection and timely treatment at every stage of breast cancer, reducing the impact of breast cancer on the patient, health care system and society with little impact on insurance premiums. However, federal legislation is needed to remove this financial barrier for all private insurance plans and create consistency across the country.

In the 119th Congress, the ABCD Act (H.R. 3037), addresses these urgent gaps in care by ensuring that private insurance plans cover diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging without patient cost-sharing, just as they already do for screening mammograms. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would alleviate these burdens that too many people face and encourage patients not to delay or forego tests needed to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy.

As leading advocacy organizations committed to supporting the breast cancer community, we urge Congress to advance the ABCD Act. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to improving the lives of individuals affected by breast cancer.

Should you have any questions, please contact Molly Guthrie at mguthrie@komen.org.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Indian Cancer Foundation

Breastcancer.org

Cancer Support Community

CancerCare

Check for a Lump

DenseBreast-info.org

FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered

HealthyWomen

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance

Male Breast Cancer Global Alliance

METAvivor

NAACP

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Black Nurses Association

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

National Consortium of Breast Centers

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Society of Breast Imaging

Susan G. Komen

Tigerlily Foundation

TOUCH – The Black Breast Cancer Alliance

Triage Cancer

Unite for HER