



Dinah Sykes
Senate Democratic Leader

Senator Dinah Sykes, Written Testimony
Kansas Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
SB 48

Chairman Longbine and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 48.

SB 48 would require health insurance companies in the state of Kansas to cover the cost of diagnostic examinations for breast cancer. I am here to offer my support for this bill because it is both the right thing to do for Kansans, and it makes good economic sense.

Diagnostic imaging empowers patients and physicians by providing them with as much information as possible on unusual changes found during screening mammograms, or suspected based on the patient's family medical history. According to the Susan G. Komen Center for Public Policy, approximately 10 percent of screening mammograms require a follow-up diagnostic mammogram. Follow-up tests do not always result in a positive breast cancer diagnosis, but for those positive cases, they provide for diagnoses to occur quickly so that patients and their physicians can create timely treatment plans. As we all know, early detection saves lives.

The current cost for diagnostic follow-up testing is prohibitive for many Kansans, ranging from around \$200 to over \$1,000. SB 48 would improve access and lead to more Kansans using available services to ensure that they receive the care they need, when they need it. Not only do these tests provide peace-of-mind to patients, they save lives by catching the cancer sooner rather than later and ensuring survivors of breast cancer are screening regularly and appropriately. This leads to better health outcomes and lower costs for patients and their families.

I urge the committee to join our friends in Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, and Texas, and pass SB 48 favorably out of committee.

Thank you,

Senator Dinah Sykes