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Contact: lisa@vbcf.org

Virginia General Assembly Passes Legislation to Eliminate Out-of-Pocket Costs for Breast Cancer Diagnostic & Supplemental Imaging

Richmond, VA – [February 13, 2025] – The Virginia General Assembly has unanimously passed [HB1828/SB1436](#), legislation eliminating patient out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental breast imaging, including diagnostic mammograms, ultrasounds, and MRIs for health insurance plans regulated by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The bills, led by patrons Delegate Shelly Simonds (70th - Newport News) and Senator Russet Perry (31st -Loudoun/Fauquier), now await Governor Youngkin's signature.

"We all know that the earlier cancer is detected, the better the prognosis – not to mention the huge cost-savings of an early diagnosis versus a late-stage one. Too often, we see women delay getting a follow-up exam, and by the time they can afford to pay for care, their prognosis is worse. This legislation will remove those barriers to care and will save lives. " said Delegate Simonds.

"This bill was incredibly personal for me. My mother was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer when I was only 5 years old. Her prognosis was grim, but she survived. She saw her survival as a chance at a second lease on life. She went back to school to study breast cancer and try to save others' lives," said Senator Perry. "Breast cancer isn't partisan, and it doesn't discriminate based on zip code or income. No Virginian should struggle to get diagnostic and follow-up care. Early detection and access to care save lives, and this bill will do just that: save lives. I'm thrilled that it passed both bodies with unanimous support."

A recent report by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) highlights the need for this change. In 2023, over 70% of insured patients faced out-of-pocket costs for follow-up breast cancer diagnostic tests, leading many to delay or skip care due to affordability concerns.

"Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in Virginia, and this legislation is a game-changer for patients across the Commonwealth," said Katy Sawyer, Executive Director of the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VBCF). "It will ensure cost is no longer a barrier to early detection and better outcomes. We are deeply grateful to Delegate Simonds, Senator Perry, the Virginia General Assembly, and the dedicated advocates who made this possible."

About the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VBCF)

Founded in 1991, VBCF is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to **empowering Virginians** impacted by breast cancer **through access, advocacy, education, and community action**. Learn more at www.vbcf.org.

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