



April 2025

To: Members of the Senate HHS Committee

Re: Letter in Support of SB 296—Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Examinations

Dear Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women around the world since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are members of AAUW branches around Colorado.

As breast cancer detection methods have become more sophisticated over the years, it is vital that women are able to access these important services. SB-296 updates and clarifies insurance benefits for patients. An important clarification is that cost sharing cannot be required for diagnostic and supplemental examinations in addition to regular breast cancer screenings.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB296 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Su Ryden
AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

To: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
From: Khoa Nguyen | Young Invincibles | MD/MBA Candidate at the University of Colorado
Re: **SB25-296 - Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Examinations**

Mr. Chair, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. My name is Khoa Nguyen. I am representing Young Invincibles as one of their Young Advocates. I am completing my MD at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and my MBA at the University of Colorado Denver Business School. Short of applying to residency and obtaining my MD, I have fulfilled all curricular and licensure requirements expected thus far for the MD. I am here to encourage you all to **pass SB25-296**.

Like many physicians, I, too, have a favorite patient. Under consideration of HIPAA and her privacy, we will address her as "Sally". I met "Sally" during my clinical year rotating on the plastic surgery service. "Sally" was a surgical oncology nurse personally battling against breast cancer. She underwent a mastectomy with tissue expander placement with plans for autologous reconstruction. Breast cancer had taken much of her identity and life from her. She felt stripped of her identity and quality of life. In fact, there have been many times when she has broken down crying in front of me due to the difficulty of this journey. It was not easy. Yet, it has been my privilege to walk this path with her from the beginning of her reconstructive surgical journey towards the end. The transformation has been profound. Prior tears of despair have evolved to joy. Her smile, which had been absent for months, eventually re-emerged. "Sally" has been able to reclaim many aspects of her life. She has returned to work, caring for other cancer patients with a brand new, compassionate perspective. She now lives an active life and is fully present with her children. "Sally" has been able to do this thanks to modern-day breast cancer screening and treatment.

In the United States, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime [1]. For men, this condition is rarer in incidence at 1 in 1,000 men; however, it is estimated that 2,800 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2025 [1]. Consequently, breast cancer screening is a pertinent preventive health measure that should be covered at wellness visits and annual exams. A lack of health insurance is the main reason for the disproportionate screening rates for breast cancer among patients [2]. Patients should not have to abstain from treatment for cancer due to a lack of insurance coverage. Furthermore, patients should not be halted from obtaining appropriate treatment for their breast cancer due to insurance. What if this were your mother, sister, or daughter in this situation?

As a future physician who will be working with this type of patient population, breast cancer is not a health condition that we can downplay. Catching, preventing, and treating breast cancer is crucial for the well-being of my patients. And it starts with ensuring that insurance covers breast cancer screening and treatment. I urge every committee member to **vote "yes" on SB25-296**. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Khoa Nguyen | MD/MBA Candidate
University of Colorado School of Medicine | University of Colorado Denver Business School

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Re: **SB25-296 - Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Examinations**

Youth Advocate | Young Invincibles
Junior Fellow | Global Council on Science and the Environment

References

1. Susan G. Komen. Male Breast Cancer. Susan G. Komen. Published January 30, 2025. Accessed April 24, 2025.
<https://www.komen.org/breast-cancer/facts-statistics/male-breast-cancer/>
2. Susan G. Komen. Comparing Breast Cancer Screening Rates Among Different Groups. Susan G. Komen. Accessed April 24, 2025.
<https://www.komen.org/breast-cancer/screening/screening-disparities/>