



Physicians Caring for Texans

**Breast Imaging Coverage
Senate Business and Commerce Committee
Senate Bill 1065 by Sen. Carol Alvarado
Physician Testimony by Sarah Avery, MD
April 13, 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Sarah Avery, and I am a physician from Austin specializing in radiology. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the Texas Medical Association – and its more than 55,000 physician and medical student members across Texas – and the Texas Radiological Society **in support of** Senate Bill 1065.

This bill builds upon what was done last session in House Bill 170 by requiring health plan coverage for diagnostic breast cancer examinations at a rate no less favorable than for a screening mammogram.

For many of my patients, this is critical coverage because they need this higher level of screening to prevent breast cancer due to a family history of the disease or dense breast tissue.

However, the health plan cost-sharing associated with this level of imaging is often prohibitive to many patients, and they forgo these needed preventive screenings.

As a physician I will tell you that preventive care in all areas, but especially in the area of breast cancer screening, is so important for early detection, leading to better treatment and saving lives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.