



***Written Testimony Supporting HF 447  
Submitted to the Commerce Committee  
February 24, 2021  
By Susan G. Komen***

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Chairman Stephenson, Vice Chairman Kotyza-Witthuhn, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HF 447, which relates to no-cost diagnostic services and testing following a mammogram. Our names are David Egan and Char Plitman and we are the Co-Executive Directors for Susan G. Komen® Minnesota.

Susan G. Komen is the world's leading non-profit breast cancer organization representing the millions of women and men who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, including the **4,850 women who will be diagnosed and 640 who will die from the disease this year alone in Minnesota**. Komen Minnesota is helping fuel research, advocate for patients and support people facing breast cancer locally through direct patient-centered assistance and services and by collaborating with area providers to remove barriers and connect people to needed care across Minnesota. For more information, visit [komen.org](http://komen.org).

For women who receive abnormal results in a screening mammogram, eliminating out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic imaging would improve access and lead to more patients using available services - allowing for more timely diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Unfortunately, we often receive calls and emails from women who are unable to afford the out-of-pocket costs for their follow-up diagnostic imaging services. Without some assistance, many of these women will simply delay or forego their follow-up screenings, leading to later diagnoses. This delay can mean that woman will not seek care until the cancer has spread making it much deadlier and much more costly to treat.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for all cancer patients to have fair and equal access to the breast imaging that may save their lives. Therefore, we support HF 447 and hope you will pass this vitally important legislation.

**Thank you for your consideration.**

David Egan and Char Plitman  
Co-Executive Directors, Susan G. Komen® Minnesota