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November 18, 2021

Submitted electronically via email.

The Honorable James M. Murphy, Chair
Joint Committee on Financial Services
24 Beacon Street, Room 254
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Brendan P. Crighton, Chair
Joint Committee on Financial Services
24 Beacon Street, Room 520
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H.1100/S.726, An Act relative to breast cancer equity and early detection

Dear Chair Murphy and Chair Crighton:

The Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, on behalf of our 12 member hospitals, appreciates the opportunity to provide written comment in support of **H.1100/S.726, An Act relative to breast cancer equity and early detection**. COBTH is proud to endorse this legislation to ensure equitable access to quality, affordable breast cancer diagnosis. We urge the Committee to give this legislation a favorable report.

Over the past several years, Massachusetts and the nation have recognized the importance of access to cancer screenings, making many of these services available to patients without cost-sharing. Early detection is critical to the effective treatment of many cancers, and is especially true for breast cancer. While regular screening mammograms are available for insured residents of the Commonwealth without cost-sharing, many will need follow up exams to determine if a patient has breast cancer and get an accurate diagnosis. Unfortunately, these additional services are not covered without cost-sharing.

H.1100/S.726 would ensure that diagnostic breast imaging is available to patients without cost-sharing. Enacting this legislation would improve access to diagnostic breast imaging, ensuring that patients do not forego additional testing due to financial considerations. This change is critically important for ensuring equitable access to breast cancer treatment. As you may know, Black patients have the highest breast cancer mortality rate of any race, and reducing barriers to early detection has the potential to help address these disparities.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. COBTH is proud to join the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Susan G. Komen, the Boston Breast Cancer Equity Coalition, and others in support of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions or if we can provide additional information on these or other matters.

Sincerely,

Patricia McMullin
Executive Director
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals