



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS



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TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Diana Fennell

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RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 815 – *Breast and Lung Cancer – Establishment of Screening Awareness Program and Insurance Coverage and Cost Sharing*

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society, the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, and the Maryland Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we submit this letter of **support** House Bill 815.

House Bill 815 addresses both breast and lung cancer. Diagnostic breast examinations or supplemental breast examinations are essential tools in the screening and diagnosis of breast cancer. An abnormal result from a breast cancer screen may require additional imaging, including mammographic views, ultrasound, or less frequently magnetic resonance imaging, to exclude or confirm the existence of cancer. However, many women, especially in marginalized populations, are not able to pay the required cost sharing for these potential life-saving tests. Too often, women then delay care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body or has significantly worsened, decreasing the survival rate, and resulting in increased health care costs. These same concerns arise with the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer. As such, House Bill 815 requires commercial carriers to provide coverage for recommended follow-up diagnostic imaging to assist in the diagnosis of lung cancer for individuals for which lung cancer screening is recommended by the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force.

Therefore, the above-named organizations urge a favorable vote on House Bill 815.