**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**
**Written Testimony on Senate Bill 1084**
**Texas Medical Association**
**March 11, 2025**

Chair Kolkhorst and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Texas Medical Association, representing more than 59,000 physician and medical student members across the state, appreciates the opportunity to submit comments ***in support*** of Senate Bill 1084. We support the inclusion of breast density information on mammogram reports to increase patient awareness of their breast cancer risk.

Approximately one in eight women (13.1%) in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and one in 43 women (2.3%) will die from it.[1,2] Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women, aside from skin cancer, and is the leading cause of cancer deaths after lung cancer in the U.S. and Texas. There are many lifestyle and genetic factors that affect a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. Breast density, which refers to the amount of fibrous and glandular (fibroglandular) tissue compared to fatty tissue in the breast, is one risk for breast cancer. Higher breast density makes it harder for mammograms to detect masses, as both fibroglandular tissue and masses appear as white areas on a mammogram, making it difficult for radiologists to distinguish between the two.[3]

As of September 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires all mammogram reports to include information about breast density. The reports must specify whether the patient's breasts are "dense" or "not dense" along with additional information about how breast density affects mammogram results. Breast density is grouped into four categories ranging from almost entirely fatty breast tissue to extremely dense breast tissue. It is important for patients to know that dense breast tissue makes it harder for a mammogram to detect cancer and increases their risk of developing breast cancer.[3,4] Texas facilities must follow breast density reporting requirements so Texas women are aware of their breast density and can take the necessary steps to reduce their risk of breast cancer.

Reporting breast density also allows for more individualized care. Breast density can only be diagnosed through breast imaging. Women with dense breasts may benefit from additional screenings, such as breast ultrasounds or MRIs.[3] Including vital information about breast density in mammogram reports can help physicians better care for their patients and help patients better advocate for themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We appreciate this committee's efforts to prevent breast cancer in Texas. For answers to further questions, please contact Amanda Tollett, TMA director of Public Affairs, at amanda.tollett@texmed.org.

---

[1] https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures/2024/breast-cancer-facts-and-figures-2024.pdf
[2] https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/tcr/data/screening/2024-Female-Breast-Cancer-Data-Brief.pdf
[3] https://www.facs.org/media-center/press-releases/2024/4-things-to-know-about-breast-density/#:~:text=These%20additional%20screening%20techniques%20can,patient%2C%E2%80%9D%20said%20Lora%20D.
[4] https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/screening-tests-and-early-detection/mammograms/breast-density-and-your-mammogram-report.html