

February 26, 2023

Representative Ginny Klevorn
581 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF390 (Acomb) requiring no-cost diagnostic services and testing following a mammogram

Dear Chair Klevorn and committee members,

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing to express my strong support for HF390 (Acomb), which would require health plans, medical assistance, and MinnesotaCare to cover additional diagnostic services or testing after a mammogram if a health care provider believes it is necessary.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system with 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, and central and southern Minnesota. We offer a wide variety of services across the care continuum, including mental health and addiction services, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation and community services, and nation-leading maternity care. In 2021, we were proud to launch the Allina Health Cancer Institute (AHCI), a regionally differentiated cancer program that redefines how cancer care is delivered by providing comprehensive, expert, person-centric cancer care from diagnosis to survivorship.

After skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in women. Fortunately, when breast cancer is found early, before it has had a chance to spread, the five-year survival rate is 99 percent. In order to confirm a diagnosis, patients are often advised post mammogram results they may need additional or follow up testing. According to the American Cancer Society, about 12% of women that are screened have abnormal results and require further testing. Given the disparities in outcomes between cases of early and late breast cancer diagnosis, having insurance cover additional diagnostic tests or follow up services early in the screen process is of the utmost importance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and thank you for your support of this important and life-saving legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen McHenry".

Kristen McHenry
Director of Public Affairs
Allina Health