

**MAXINE E. DEXTER, MD**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 33



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**To:** Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak  
**From:** Representative Dexter  
**Date:** June 23, 2023  
**Subject:** Voter Explanation for Senate Bill 1041-A

Chief Clerk Sekerak:

On June 23, I voted "Nay" on SB 1041-A. This bill would prohibit health benefit plans that reimburse the cost of diagnostic or supplemental breast examinations from imposing out-of-pocket expenses for patients for a medically-necessary exam with some health savings account exemptions. I wish to explain for the record why I voted "Nay."

I ran for office because I believe high-quality, affordable, accessible healthcare is a human right. It is a core belief of mine that every Oregonian should have the ability to make shared decisions with their healthcare providers about what data-driven care they want for themselves or their dependents for any significant health issue and not have cost be a barrier to their ability to access that care. I want that for people obtaining breast cancer examinations as much as I want that for people being screened for lung cancer, gastric cancer, and every other kind of cancer in addition to treatment for other conditions. I have a strong philosophical opposition to healthcare bills that disproportionately protect some classes of patients over others as it further complicates our ability to care for our community as a whole due to our system being limited in funds.

We must holistically address the challenges all Oregonians face as a result of our ineffective healthcare system. Coverage decisions should not be made by politicians nor should they be influenced by special interest groups who have the funds to influence politicians and their decisions. We must focus on making healthcare more accessible and more affordable for all, and I will continue to push for policy that keeps that top of mind while I continue to discourage carve-out policies in the future.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
House District 33  
NW & Downtown Portland, Linnton, & Cathedral Park