

Together, we will ensure all Rhode Islanders can access and afford the critical screenings and medications they need to detect, treat, and survive cancer.

### Please pass legislation to provide:

1

## No-Cost Follow-Up Breast Exams

S2032 (Zurier) / H7276 (Fogarty)

- Despite the effectiveness of breast cancer screening, the full benefit of screening has not been achieved because **barriers, like cost, still exist**.
- When patients face high out-of-pocket costs associated with follow-up imaging, they are less likely to receive their medically recommended imaging. As a result, individuals delay treatment and risk their cancer spreading – making it deadlier and costlier to treat.
- **H7276/S2032 will ease the costly burden of breast cancer screening on Rhode Islanders by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic and supplemental breast exams.**



[MORE INFO](#)

2

## No-Cost Follow-Up Lung Cancer Screenings

S3023 (Vargas) / H8246 (Bennett)

- Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in Rhode Island, while new cases (59.1 per 100,000) continue to outpace the national average (52.8).
- Detecting lung cancer early can have a dramatic effect on survival. For non-small cell lung cancer, the most common lung cancer, the 5-year survival rate is 65% when found at a localized stage but only 9% when found at a distant stage.
- Treating lung cancer at a later stage (Stage 4) is 254% more expensive than treating lung cancer at an early stage.
- **This legislation will help lower health care costs for insurers and ease the costly burden of lung cancer screenings on Rhode Islanders by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for follow-up exams.**



[MORE INFO](#)

3

## Lower Costs for Prescription Drugs

S2253 (Britto) / H7947 (Furtado)

- Many patients have difficulty affording the cost of their prescription drugs, especially those without a cheaper generic alternative available.
- Copay assistance programs provide much needed financial relief to Rhode Islanders who rely on costly medications they may not otherwise be able to afford – **then insurers step in**.
- Now, some insurers in Rhode Island block patient assistance from counting towards a patients' deductible or out-of-pocket maximum – hurting patients and costing them more.
- **S2253 / H7947 will help protect patients' access to critical financial assistance and put money back in the pockets of Rhode Islanders.**



[MORE INFO](#)

### Rhode Island Cancer Facts & Figures

- **7,260** Rhode Islanders will be diagnosed with cancer this year
- **2,120** Rhode Islanders will die from cancer this year
- **Lung Cancer** is the leading cause of cancer death in RI (est. 410 deaths in '26)
- While 31% of high-risk Rhode Islanders get screened for **lung cancer**, our state ranks **37 out of 51** in the nation for rate of new lung cancer cases, at 59.1 per 100,000 (52.8 in US)
- **Breast Cancer** is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in RI (est. 1,160 new cases in '26)
- **Breast Cancer** accounts for approximately 13% of new cancer cases annually and 7% of cancer deaths in Rhode Island
- According to a 2024 survey, **more than half (53%) of Rhode Islanders are somewhat or very worried about affording the cost of prescription drugs**

Sources: American Cancer Society, RI Department of Health, American Lung Association, RI Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

**SAVE THE DATE**

## TOBACCO-FREE RHODE ISLAND DAY OF ACTION

Tues. April 14<sup>th</sup> | 3:00pm | House Lounge, RI State House

**Hosted by:** American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Lung Association,  
& American Heart Association

**More Info:** [fightcancer.org/RhodeIsland](https://fightcancer.org/RhodeIsland)

**Connect With Us**

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