

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2944

To amend title 10, United States Code, to include digital breast tomosynthesis as a primary and preventative health care service under the military health system and the TRICARE program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to include digital breast tomosynthesis as a primary and preventative health care service under the military health system and the TRICARE program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Better and Robust
5 Screening Today Act” or the “BRST Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) A woman born today has a one in eight
2 chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer at
3 some time during her life.

4 (2) Breast cancer is the most commonly diag-
5 nosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer
6 death among women.

7 (3) Death rates from breast cancer in the
8 United States have dropped 40 percent between
9 1989 and 2017 which translates to 375,900 deaths
10 avoided during those 28 years.

11 (4) The decline in breast cancer death rates has
12 been attributed to improvements in treatment and
13 early detection and screening.

14 (5) When breast cancer is detected in an early
15 and localized stage, the five-year survival rate is 99
16 percent, further demonstrating why proper screening
17 is essential.

18 (6) Conventional mammography and digital
19 mammography are known to be less effective in the
20 breast cancer screening process for all women, in-
21 cluding those with dense breast tissue, than digital
22 breast tomosynthesis screening.

23 (7) The Medicare program under title XVIII of
24 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and

1 the Veterans Health Administration cover digital
2 breast tomosynthesis mammography screenings.

3 (8) The TRICARE program (as defined in sec-
4 tion 1072(7) of title 10, United States Code) does
5 not currently cover digital breast tomosynthesis
6 mammography screenings.

7 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT TO BREAST CANCER SCREENING**
8 **UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.**

9 Section 1074d(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code,
10 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the
11 following: “, including through the use of digital breast
12 tomosynthesis”.

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