

Wilmington, Delaware  
June 20, 2024

**#0447**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 313 (HB 313), An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code

**Sponsor:** Relating to Mammograms would ensure that all female inmates in the custody of the Delaware Department of Corrections at level IV or V, receive annual or biennial screening mammograms as recommended by the United States Preventative Services Task Force; and

**Council Member B. Fields**

**Co-Sponsors:** **WHEREAS**, mammograms serve as essential early breast cancer screening and diagnostic tools to indicate abnormalities in the breast, which can help detect breast cancer in early stages and before symptoms present themselves. The American Cancer Society recommends that women begin annual breast cancer screenings at 40 years old. Early-stage diagnosis through regular screening can increase the chances of breast cancer survival by 99% in the first five years; and

**Council President Congo**

**Council Member White**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Wilmington’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan prioritizes a “Healthy Wilmington” with accessibility to healthcare for all residents. In 2020, the Delaware Division of Public Health estimated that 73% of women reported having had a mammogram within the preceding two years. Research from the National Library of Medicine indicates that incarcerated women face even greater barriers to accessing healthcare, especially preventative care. They lack the freedom to decide when and how to access healthcare, including routine preventative services; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware’s female prison population has a disproportionate share of risk factors associated with breast cancer. Lack of physical activity, being overweight, alcohol consumption, and not breastfeeding are all behavioral factors that can increase breast cancer risk. Incarcerated women have less discretion about their diet and their ability to exercise,

many have struggled with alcohol and substance abuse in their lifetimes, or have experienced disruptions in their health and family situations that may have prevented them from breastfeeding; and

**WHEREAS**, age, race, and family history are also significant factors associated with breast cancer risk. There is a disproportionate share of Black women currently incarcerated in the State of Delaware. Nationally, Black women are incarcerated at double the rate of White women. Black women are more likely to have aggressive forms of cancer and have the highest rate of deaths from breast cancer due to late diagnosis. Without HB 313, racial disparities in incarceration will contribute to perpetuating racial disparities in health outcomes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that this Legislative body urges the honorable members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 313 (HB 313), An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Mammograms.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Legislative body expresses strong support for access to annual or biennial mammogram screenings, as recommended by the United States Preventative Services Task Force, for women incarcerated in Delaware’s correctional facilities.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** In alignment with the Wilmington City Council’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Goal of supporting a “Healthy Wilmington,” this Resolution urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 313 (HB 313), An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Mammograms, to reduce barriers to humane, equitable healthcare for female inmates in Delaware.