



March 11, 2026

Chair Talbot, Vice Chair Bass, and Members of the Senate Insurance Committee,

On behalf of the American Association of Clinical Urology (AACU) and the physicians we represent, we appreciate the opportunity to express support for SB 84 and thank Senator Myers for introducing this important legislation.

Founded in 1968 by urologists concerned by the government's increasing role in the practice of medicine, the AACU is a professional organization representing the interests of more than 3,700 member urologists and urologic societies engaged as advocacy affiliates across the United States. We are dedicated to developing and advancing health policy education as it affects urologic practice in order to preserve and promote the professional autonomy of our members while supporting the highest quality of care for patients.

As physicians who diagnose and treat prostate cancer across the country, AACU members see the consequences of delayed detection every day in clinical practice. When screening occurs early and patients can follow recommended diagnostic pathways, prostate cancer is often highly treatable. When barriers delay screening, the disease is more likely to be diagnosed at advanced stages where treatment becomes more complex and outcomes worsen.

Unfortunately, screening rates have declined in recent years while late-stage diagnoses have increased. These trends are particularly concerning for men at higher risk of prostate cancer, including Black men and those with family history or other risk factors. Research consistently demonstrates that financial barriers—especially out-of-pocket costs—play a significant role in whether patients pursue recommended screening and follow-up diagnostic testing.

From the perspective of practicing urologists, the clinical consequences are clear. When patients delay screening because of cost concerns, physicians are more likely to encounter the disease at later stages, when treatment becomes more complex and outcomes worsen. Conversely, when screening is accessible and aligned with guideline-driven care, prostate cancer can often be detected earlier, when treatment is most effective and survival rates approach 100 percent.

SB 84 addresses this challenge by recognizing prostate cancer screening as a continuum of care rather than a single event. By removing cost-sharing barriers across the screening pathway, the bill helps ensure that high-risk patients can follow through on the diagnostic steps their physicians recommend.

Experience from other states demonstrates that similar policies can expand access to screening without meaningfully increasing insurance premiums or state spending. In fact, many analyses have concluded that earlier detection can reduce long-term costs by avoiding expensive late-stage treatment and improving overall patient outcomes.

AACU has supported similar patient-access policies in multiple states because we believe coverage policy should align with modern clinical practice. Our members have worked with state policymakers on initiatives that expand access to early detection, reduce administrative and financial barriers to care, and ensure that physicians can provide evidence-based treatment to the patients who rely on them.

Policies that align insurance coverage with evidence-based clinical guidelines help physicians deliver appropriate care while reducing the long-term costs associated with late-stage cancer treatment.

At its core, SB 84 reflects a straightforward principle: patients should not face financial barriers to medically appropriate cancer screening recommended by their physicians. Ensuring access to evidence-based screening will help physicians diagnose prostate cancer earlier, improve survival outcomes, and reduce the long-term burden of this disease on Louisiana families.

For these reasons, AACU respectfully urges the Committee to support SB 84.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to improving access to care for patients across Louisiana.

Respectfully,

John Lam, MD

State Advocacy Network Chair
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.

C. Mark Jackson, MD

President
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.

Ron Lanton, Esq.

Government Affairs Director
American Association of Clinical Urologists, Inc.