SENATE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/9/2009

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Creem, Cynthia (SEN)**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General  
 Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing breast cancer patient protection

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Creem, Cynthia (SEN) | First Middlesex and Norfolk |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S00585 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act providing breast cancer patient protection

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17H the following section: -

Section 17I. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage, for a minimum of forty -eight hours of inpatient care following a mastectomy and a minimum of twenty-four hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Any decision to shorten these minimum stays shall be made by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient. If the patient participates in an early discharge, defined as in-patient care following a mastectomy that is less than forty-eight hours and inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, coverage shall include a minimum of one home visit conducted by a physician or registered nurse.

SECTION 2. Section 51 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding, at the end, the following: -

No hospital licensed pursuant to this section shall, for mastectomy and lymph node dissection patients, permit early discharge, defined as inpatient care following a mastectomy that is less than forty-eight hours and inpatient care following a lymph-node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, unless the early discharge is recommended by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient.

SECTION 3. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 10F the following section:-

Section 10G. The division shall provide coverage for a minimum of forty-eight hours of inpatient care following a mastectomy and a minimum of twenty-four hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Any decision to shorten these minimum stays shall be made by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient. If the patient participates in an early discharge, defined as inpatient care following a mastectomy that is less than forty-eight hours and inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, coverage shall include a minimum of one home visit conducted by a physician or registered nurse.

SECTION 4. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 47X the following section: -

Section 47Y. Any blanket or general policy of insurance, except a blanket or general policy of insurance which provides supplemental coverage to medicare or other governmental programs, described in subdivision (A), (C) or (D) of section one hundred and ten which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and which is issued or subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the commonwealth, during the period this provision is effective, or any policy of accident or sickness insurance as described in section one hundred and eight which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, except a policy which provides supplemental coverage to medicare or other governmental programs, and which is delivered or issued for delivery or subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder in the commonwealth, during the period that this provision is effective, or any employees' health and welfare fund which provides hospital expense and surgical expense benefits and which is promulgated or renewed to any person or group of persons in the commonwealth, while this provision is effective, shall provide benefits for expense of residents of the commonwealth covered under any such policy or plan, for the expense of a minimum of forty-eight hours of inpatient care following a mastectomy and a minimum of twenty-four hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Any decision to shorten these minimum stays shall be made by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient. If the patient participates in an early discharge, defined as inpatient care following a mastectomy that is less than forty-eight hours and inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, coverage shall include a minimum of one home visit conducted by a physician or registered nurse.

SECTION 5. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 8Y the following section:-

Section 8Z. Any contract, except contracts providing supplemental coverage to medicare or other governmental programs, between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group hospital service plan which shall be delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide, as a basic benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth, for expense for a minimum of forty-eight hours of inpatient care following a mastectomy and a minimum of twenty-four hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Any decision to shorten these minimum stays shall be made by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient. If the patient participates in any early discharge, defined as in-patient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, coverage shall include a minimum of one home visit conducted by a physician or registered nurse.

SECTION 6. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 4Y the following section:-

Section 4Z. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement, except certificates which provide supplemental coverage to medicare or other governmental programs, which shall be delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide, as a basic benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth for expense for a minimum of forty-eight hours of in-patient care following a mastectomy and a minimum of twenty-four hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Any decision to shorten these minimum stays shall be made by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient. If the patient participates in an early discharge, defined as inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, coverage shall include a minimum of one home visit conducted by a physician or registered nurse.

SECTION 7. Section 4 of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding at the end of the first paragraph the following sentence:- Such health maintenance contract shall also provide coverage for inpatient care following a mastectomy and inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer as set forth in section forty-seven R of chapter one hundred and seventy-five.

SECTION 8. Said chapter 176G of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 4Q of the following section:-

4R.  Any health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for inpatient care following a mastectomy and inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer in accordance with section four. Such coverage shall include a minimum of forty-eight hours of inpatient care following a mastectomy and a minimum of twenty-four hours of inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. Any decision to shorten these minimum stays shall be made by the attending physician in consultation with and upon agreement by the patient. If the patient participates in an early discharge, defined as inpatient care following a mastectomy that is less than forty-eight hours and inpatient care following a lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer that is less than twenty-four hours, coverage shall include a minimum of one home visit conducted by a physician or registered nurse.

SECTION 9. No policy or plan covered under this act shall terminate the services, deselect, reduce capitation payment, or otherwise penalize an attending physician or other health care provider for ordering care consistent with the provisions of this act. For the purposes of this section, the words "health care provider" shall include the attending physician and hospital.