

Statement of Jade A. Anderson, M.D  
Appropriations Committee  
Governor's Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget for Human Services Agencies  
March 3, 2021

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France, and members of the Appropriations Committee: my name is Dr. Jade Anderson, I am a resident radiologist, practicing and training at Norwalk Hospital. I am testifying today to urge the committee to reverse a 2015 42% reduction in reimbursement rate for radiological procedures under the Medicaid program.

There are multiple ramifications of reduced Medicaid reimbursements.

I have been on the frontlines during the pandemic, and I am proud of the response and handling that Connecticut has put forth with regards to protecting their healthcare workforce. As a soon-to-be graduating resident who is looking to remain in the Northeast as her home base, this bill forces a decision to apply for permanent employment in other states. This also impacts other residents who would like to remain in Connecticut.

As a Black and woman physician, I am a champion for women's health and diversity. I am serving on the Diversity committee for the Radiological Society of CT, I am the immediate past Chair of the Resident and Fellow Section of the Connecticut State Medical Society, and I have multiple other appointments that I will not list here due to time constraints.

Connecticut has been such a progressive state in regards to healthcare, such as being one of the first states that approved insurance coverage for the use of breast tomosynthesis (a 3D image of the breast which aids in the early detection and diagnosis of breast disease). It is unfortunate that CT has reduced these reimbursements for the Medicaid population, leading to less access to mammograms, lung cancer screenings, amongst many other important screening tests. It is also surprising, as screenings save the state money in the long run by identifying potentially deadly disease early. Radiology is so important for women's imaging and the health of the underserved. Due to this reduction, some imaging offices have closed across the state.

This is an access to care issue, a health equity issue, and a physician retainment issue that should not be associated with the great state of Connecticut.

Please reverse the 2015 42% reduction in reimbursement rate for radiological procedures under the Medicaid program.

At the same time, I want to urge your committee to retain the level of funding that has been devoted to the breast and cervical cancer screening program. This life-saving initiative is funded at \$2.1 million each year and provides outreach efforts to encourage women to have these tests. Early detection saves lives, and I hope you will consider some increased funding for this initiative. Many women have missed their appointments due to COVID-19, and this would enable screening efforts to "catch up".

Thank you again for your service in the General Assembly.

**Jade A. Anderson, M.D.**  
Diagnostic Radiology Resident  
Norwalk Hospital  
(708) 351-1315