

# ZERO Cost to Prostate Cancer Screening: A Lifesaving Initiative for South Carolina



## Make prostate cancer screening **accessible** and **affordable** statewide.

Cost sharing is an unnecessary barrier to screening for prostate cancer, which is the critical first step for diagnosis. But, it doesn't have to be this way – and it shouldn't. If prostate cancer is detected early, nearly 100% of patients will survive. This legislative proposal is simple – eliminate cost sharing for prostate cancer screening for persons at a high risk of prostate cancer. Similar legislation has already been enacted in New York, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Illinois.

## Individuals at a High-Risk for Prostate Cancer Include:



- All persons with a prostate over age 55
- All persons with a prostate over age 40 in a specific high risk category:
  - African American
  - Family history of prostate cancer
  - Genetic predisposition to prostate cancer



## Prostate Cancer by the Numbers:

- In 2023, over 5,770 individuals in South Carolina will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, making it the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in the state.
- Prostate cancer is the fifth-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in South Carolina.
- In 2023, a man is expected to die from prostate cancer every 15 minutes.
- 288,300 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, and 34,700 men will die from this disease.
- Black men will be diagnosed at a rate more than 70% higher than non-Hispanic white men.
- Black men are more than twice as likely to die because of lack of access to testing and care.
- Prostate cancer rates in the military and Veterans are twice that of the general population.