TESTIMONY
STAMFORD HOSPITAL'S MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICES
Before The
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Raise Bill No. 7162
LCO No. 4334

Good Morning, my name is Joan Gore-Biagiarelli, Coordinator of Mobile Mammography Services at Stamford Hospital. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of our Mobile Mammography Services. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Stamford Hospital is proud of its Mobile Mammography Program, a cost-effective way of providing life-saving mammograms for hard-to-reach women who are 40 years of age or older, who are insured and working or are underinsured or uninsured.

Our coordinated program provides strong patient navigation services, and we seek to reduce breast cancer disparities, especially among the underserved. We ensure follow-up care at Stamford Hospital's Tully Health Center or at collaborating hospital providers.

Our Mobile Mammography program began in 1996 with a gift from Clairol, specifically to screen uninsured women. In 1998, Clairol also purchased the vehicle that we use today. In 2001, Verizon (GTE) purchased the analog mammography unit. The program has screened more than 28,000 women. Last year, we screened 3,300 women-- 1,250 of whom were uninsured; and 2,050 with insurance –at place of work in the community and in faith-based and clinic settings.

Mammograms are paid by insurance or grant funding from the Breast Cancer Alliance, Clairol, the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Connecticut Health Department.

Our current equipment is outdated; the van needs to be replaced and our mammography analog unit needs to be upgraded to a digital unit. Digital mammography provides visual imagery immediately, reducing call backs and the need for film, processing and costly storage.

We are seeking funding to purchase State of the Science Equipment, including a Mobile Coach, complete with changing/ examining room and an x-ray room with new digital mammography equipment.

Our goals are to save more lives from breast cancer by:

- Increasing breast cancer screening by 25% or 875 women per year
- Providing additional breast cancer education (with videos on coach)
- Improving service through faster follow-up with digital images

We know that this committee shares our commitment to achieving our goals, and we thank you for taking time to review our program. The Stamford Hospital Foundation is committed to raising the funding needed ($1.5 million), and we hope that State of Connecticut will be a partner in this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Biagiarelli-Gore