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Testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 458

My name is Joe Cappello and I live in Woodbury, CT.

I would like to thank Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee again for your concern for the health of the women of Connecticut.

My wife Nancy and I have come before this committee since 2005 and we always believed when it comes to the issue of dense breast tissue, YOU GET IT. When you needed clarification we welcomed the questions because you showed a determined interest. Under Senator Crisco's leadership you helped us begin to expose the best-kept secret of dense breast tissue and its ability to hide tumors from unsuspecting women with the passage of the bill to mandate ultrasound coverage. Before then this issue was not on anyone's radar screen. You have helped shine a bright public light on an otherwise unknown but deadly flaw in the early detection of breast cancer with the passage of that legislation. Women across Connecticut were like lambs going to slaughter with a late stage diagnosis without the knowledge that a simple ultrasound would have found their tumor at an earlier stage. It's all about early detection.

The citizens of The State of Connecticut owe this committee a debt of gratitude for its fine work in the early detection of breast cancer for women with dense breast tissue. The hard, cold granite walls of this legislative building became a little softer and warmer to the women of Connecticut that day. Your work on dense breast tissue legislation will continue to reap benefits many fold for many years to come. Nancy receives many letters from women across the state thanking her for her advocacy on their behalf. She speaks to many groups and tells her story about her late stage cancer diagnosis, and breaks through that medical barrier with clear compelling words of truth.

This session, I come before you speaking in favor of Raised Bill No. 458. Through this bill, Connecticut women will be given the necessary information to make an informed decision about their health and for the first time empowered with knowledge about their breast density.

I thank you in advance for your support of this bill.