



Radiological Society of Connecticut, Inc.
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

Statement of the
Radiological Society of Connecticut
in support of
Senate Bill 458
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 3, 2009

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Sen. Crisco, Rep. Fontana and members of the committee:

My name is Linda Kowalski. I am executive director of the Radiological Society of Connecticut, which is comprised of several hundred Medical Doctors who specialize in the field of Radiology.

The RSC is delighted to support Senate Bill 458, *An Act Requiring Communication of Mammographic Breast Density Information to Patients*. In doing so, we want to acknowledge the leadership and perseverance on this issue by Sens. Crisco and Hartley as well as the tenacity of advocate Nancy Cappello.

Many of our members are breast imagers who are highly committed to discovering even the smallest of cancers in their patients through state-of-the-art imagery. The technology to do this continues to develop rapidly. Mammograms are now considered to be a baseline procedure. More detailed tests are now available that can add to the detection of cancers through the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) or Breast Ultrasound (BUS).

Last session, RSC did have reservations about legislation that would proscribe a statement on patient reports encouraging them to have a breast ultrasound. Our only reluctance was that a national clinical trial was underway at the time on this very issue, the efficacy of breast ultrasound screenings, and we thought it would be better to wait for the final results of the ACRIN 6666 trials (American College of Radiology Investigative Network) before enacting legislation.

Last summer the preliminary results of ACRIN 6666 were announced followed by a final report late in 2008. In summary, the trials show that a breast ultrasound does find cancers that were not spotted by a mammogram—particularly for women who have dense or heterogeneously dense breast tissue. The flip side is that ultrasound is such a sensitive technology that it can find a problem that leads to a biopsy and turns out to be nothing serious. We call that a “false positive” examination.

RSC believes that women should know about all of the options that are available in the way of safe and effective breast examinations. Thus, we support S.B. 458. I would note that our Society has discussed with Ms. Cappello the specific wording of the statement to be placed on patient reports. I believe Nancy will present to you the language we have agreed upon as well as a request that lines 32-40 of the bill be deleted.

As executive director of the Radiological Society of Connecticut, I can tell you that our members will move quickly to implement this new requirement once it becomes law.

One additional consideration that we would like to introduce here is that all facilities offering breast ultrasound should have their equipment accredited by The American College of Radiology. This ensures high quality standards for patient care and would parallel a similar Connecticut law that requires all MRI scanners used in the state to meet ACR standards.

Members of the committee, Connecticut's Radiologists are among the finest in the nation. They take their responsibility for patient care very seriously and are constantly adapting to the latest technologies that improve the chance of earlier detection of breast cancer. Senate Bill 458 will help in this regard and, on behalf of Connecticut's Radiologists, we are delighted to support it. Thank you.