



# Hospital of Saint Raphael

A member of the Saint Raphael Healthcare System

1450 Chapel Street • New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • 203.789.3000 • www.srhs.org

259  
FTR

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
JOYCE CHUNG, M.D.  
RADIATION ONCOLOGIST  
HOSPITAL OF SAINT RAPHAEL  
BEFORE THE  
INSURANCE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 4, 2010

Francis S. Cardinale, M.D.  
Joseph G. Cardinale, M.D.  
Joyce Y. Chung, M.D.  
Arthur H. Knowlton, M.D.  
Suzanne B. Evans, M.D.  
Vanna M. Dest, APRN

*Radiation Oncology*

*Father Michael J. McGivney  
Center for Cancer Care*

203.789.3131  
fax: 203.789.3133

RE: SENATE BILL 259

AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS

Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I am Dr. Joyce Chung, a Radiation Oncologist at the Hospital of Saint Raphael, and I support mandatory health insurance policy coverage for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and additional mammograms within a health insurance policy year for patients with prior personal history of breast cancer, positive genetic testing or other indications as determined by a patient's physician or advanced practice registered nurse.

As an oncologist, I care for hundreds of patients with breast cancer -- many of these patients are newly-diagnosed patients who have dense breast tissue and who benefit from breast MRI studies. Many of these patients presented with mammographically-undetectable breast cancer in which MRI studies revealed the location and size of the cancer.

Breast-cancer patients complete extensive comprehensive breast-cancer treatments including surgery, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and radiation therapy. Patients are then closely followed with surveillance studies which often include mammograms. In this group of patients, continued surveillance with breast MRI studies are extremely important given the patients' history of dense breast tissue and a history of mammographically-undetectable breast cancer. As an oncologist, I recommend follow-up MRI studies in conjunction with mammograms. Most times, my requests for follow-up MRIs are denied by the insurance companies. Unfortunately, the physician's recommendations are ignored, and the insurance company decides the patient's treatment!

I urge the Insurance Committee to pass mandatory health insurance coverage for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and additional mammograms within a health insurance policy year for patients with prior personal history of breast cancer, positive genetic testing or other indications as determined by a patient's physician or advanced practice registered nurse.

Thank you for your consideration.