

Are You DENSE?  
*exposing the best kept secret*  
www.areyoudense.org

SB 50  
PTR

February 16, 2010

Are You Dense, Inc.  
96 Rowley Road  
Woodbury, CT 06798

Re: Support of Raised Bill 50 - *AN ACT CONCERNING ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENTS*

Dear Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

On behalf of Are You Dense, Inc. a public nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of dense breast tissue for the early detection of breast cancer, I write to you in support of Raised Bill 50.

Another goal of Are You Dense, Inc. is to improve the condition of women diagnosed with breast cancer. As an advanced stage breast cancer survivor, I know first-hand how challenging it is to face this disease even under the best of conditions - a supportive network of family and friends, great physicians and insurance coverage for life saving treatments.

Through my diagnosis and experience, I learned that insurance practices often lag behind current research and science in best screening and treatment options. During my treatment six years ago, oral chemotherapy was not an option offered to me. Oral chemotherapy is quickly emerging as an option for select patients who will comply with the prescribed oral regimens and self-monitoring for potential complications. Oral Chemotherapy also benefits a woman's family and employer as it is more time efficient than intravenous therapies; typically requiring women to travel to the treatment center spending nearly a day away from home or work.

Are You Dense, Inc. supports Connecticut's efforts to require group and individual health coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for oral cancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for intravenously-administered chemotherapy. At the same time, we need to ensure that by adopting this policy, health insurers are not allowed to reduce coverage for intravenous therapies.

Sincerely,

*Nancy M. Cappello*

Nancy M. Cappello, Ph.D.  
Founder and President  
Are You Dense, Inc.