

From: Andrew Pintal [mailto:apintal122@charter.net]
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To: Toohey, Pam
Subject: Bill 259

259
FTR

As a breast cancer survivor I am pleading with you to consider passing the bill that would allow women who meet the criteria for more frequent mammograms and MRI's be allowed to have what her doctor deems necessary.

The stress of breast cancer is in itself is enough for women to endure. There are many factors that bring uncertainty. At the beginning you are just plain terrified that you will die. Then there are all the uncomfortable testing and probing and the waiting. Surgery likely follows all that and then more treatment whether it be chemo, radiation or both. But, you are strong for your family and you endure. Then it is all done and you move on with your life. But, there is always the little nagging thought in the back of your mind. So, off to your six month mammogram following all the treatment. Oh, but wait, this is now called, "diagnostic" and never will you have a "routine" mammogram according to my insurance provider. Women are entitled to one "routine" mammogram a year. That is clearly not enough for follow up in this instance. But, the insurances have you where they want you. You cannot argue. You can try, but like me, you just cave in and pay any balance you owe. Again, I stress breast cancer is scary enough without having to worry about money and insurance coverage.

My own daughter has had plenty of problems with her breast and I believe that she has had about six biopsies. Her surgeon, who is also my surgeon ordered an MRI of her breast. She was denied. According to her insurance company no one close enough had breast cancer to warrant it. However, her aunt, (father's sister) had it many years ago. So, my daughter had to wait and pray the lumps in her breast were not cancer. Well, I got diagnosed with BC and that same day she called for an MRI and she got it. Now that her mother had breast cancer she could have one and we both had our MRI's within days of one another. How come the insurance company can over ride the professional decision by a doctor to investigate a potential serious problem?

One in eight of us will get breast cancer. It is epidemic. It is not fair to any woman to have to beg for the necessary tests to save her life. This has to change. It is in your hands and for God's sake, it could be any one of you or your family members who face the battle of their lives. Please consider making this right for all of us because it is fair, and deserved.

Phyllis Pintal
Windham, CT