

## Submitted In Support of H.B. No. 5448, An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Thermography

### Key Points:

- Thermography has been FDA Approved since 1982 as a breast cancer screening device.
- Should not be considered an alternative to mammography. Rather, it should be regarded as an adjunct to mammography, and should be included in every woman's regular breast health regimen.
- One in eight women will have breast cancer! Should we not offer as much information as possible?
- The Index Medicus, a comprehensive index of medical scientific journal articles, references more than 800 peer-reviewed breast thermography studies, in which over 250,000 women participated.
  - When thermography has been added to a woman's regular breast health checkups, a 61% increased survival rate was realized, and when used as part of a multi-modal approach (clinical examination, mammography and thermography) 95% of early stage cancers will be detected.
  - A recent 2008 study was performed at New York Presbyterian Hospital/ Cornell and was published by the American Academy of Breast Surgeons in the American Journal of Surgery. In this study thermographic imaging identified 58 out of 60 malignant tumors compared to biopsy, a 97% sensitivity rate.
- Women ages 20-40 have no standard diagnostic test for breast cancer detection, yet over 20,000 women die in this age category each year. These women NEED this bill to be passed.

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