

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED H.B. NO.5448 FEBRUARY 3, 2011
AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BREAST THERMOGRAPHY

I am Joyce Bray and a resident of CT since I was 8 years old.

I have been a women's health advocate most of my adult life.

I am the daughter of a 32 year breast cancer survivor until 1992.

I am President of the CT Breast Health Initiative whose mission is to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer through education and research.

Breast cancer is increasing rapidly, from 1 in 20 women 50 years ago to, possibly, 1 in 3 women within the next 20 years. This disease adds 200,000 women per year, and kills 40,000 per year, while costing at least \$4 billion to our economy. While 5-year survival rates have improved, the prevention of this disease and the cost in lives and dollars has not improved. Current breast cancer prevention strategies and standards of care, are clearly not effective, and need to be changed dramatically:

Existing research using evidence based-medicine has shown that 80-90% of breast cancer cases could be avoided with better, proven, non-invasive early detection technology, such as thermography.

If all women starting at the age of 25 were able to be tested with thermography, and treated with scientifically proven prevention programs, it should be possible to reduce the risk of breast cancer by up to 90% within 20-30 years. This would save millions of lives, billions of dollars and years of suffering for patients, families and friends. Most women are not aware of this valid prevention strategy, and the medical establishment is basically ignoring it due to lack of knowledge and/or financial interest. However, it is in the interest of all women, all employers, all governments and society in general, that this real prevention strategy be given the publicity and coverage it deserves.

What is Thermography?

Breast thermography is a breast cancer screening without radiation and discomfort, that has been FDA approved since 1982. It is effective in healthy breasts at 97% sensitivity, and is safe, as most screenings should be.

It is performed by a trained technician who is certified by the American College of Clinical Thermography, is read by a Board Certified physician.

It focuses on breast health and ways to prevent breast cancer at the cellular level, rather than put the emphasis on testing and retesting until you do find something to poke, prod, cut out, poison or radiate.

Thermography detects physiology not anatomy, and therefore, by identifying inflammation or temperature differences, it can signal pre-cancerous or cancerous cells extremely early.

My presence today is to ask for insurance coverage for thermography, included in a multi-modal approach to breast health.

Coverage should include women from ages 25 to 75, as every woman should have the opportunity and option to include thermography as part of her regular breast health care. However, special emphasis should be placed on women between the ages of 25 and 45. This is when breast cells begin to experience the cellular changes that eventually lead to breast cancer. Since thermography can see these cellular changes, this is the best opportunity to prevent breast cancer. No other breast diagnosis technology can see these cellular changes, and doctors can use non-invasive prevention strategies, such as detoxification, nutrition, supplements and hormones, to return any problematic cells to normal. This is "True Prevention."

We must do everything we can to provide better clinical procedures, as well as screening, in an effort to prevent women from having to deal with this terrible disease. Breast cancers are particularly aggressive in younger women. Statistics indicate that approximately 30% of all breast cancers occur in women under the age of 40. With regard to the average number of days for a normal cell to change and become a cancer cell, this process is known as cancer cell doubling rate time, and occurs much faster in younger women versus women after the age of 50. It takes about 4 billion cells to cluster before a mammogram can "see" it, while a thermogram can detect vascular changes in 90 days.

Thermogramas can additionally offer a superior diagnosis option in the following situations: Fibrocystic breast disease, dense breast, large breast, breast implants, family history of breast cancer, non-conclusive mammogram, estrogen dominance, and those women who refuse mammography for personal reasons such as concern over radiation exposure and compression complications.

In conclusion, I ask that our state assume a leadership role by being the first in the development and deployment and coverage of this real breast cancer prevention strategy, and therefore save money and more lives, contributing to a healthy Connecticut.

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