



RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT, INC.  
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

Statement of Dr. Jean Weigert  
Radiological Society of Connecticut  
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Senate Bill 12  
February 16, 2012

Sen. Crisco, Rep. Megna and members of the committee:

My name is Jean Weigert and I am a Radiologist and director of Women's Imaging at the Hospitals' of Central Connecticut, New Britain and Southington Conn. I sit on the Executive Board of the Radiological Society of Connecticut and am here to testify on their behalf in support of Senate Bill 12.

The RSC supports Senate Bill 12 because it clarifies that standards over Ultrasound and MRI will be those that are in the current statute. Namely, women with dense breasts, personal history of cancer, family history of cancer, positive genetic testing and other indicators of risk of developing breast cancer as determined by their referring physicians. We believe these are sufficient standards to guide the implementation of this important law. The other language you are deleting with SB 12 simply is not needed. Standards may evolve over time and we are confident that these will be generally accepted and implemented by the referring physician.

As you know, Connecticut was the first state in the country to mandate insurance coverage of breast ultrasound in patients' with dense breasts. This presented a unique opportunity to investigate whether there is an increased yield in early breast cancers in this group of women. Therefore, a UCONN Medical Student and I collected breast ultrasound data from multiple radiology practices around the state from October 2009 to October 2010. A total of 78,778 screening mammograms and 8,651 comprehensive breast ultrasounds were performed. Of the ultrasounds performed in the study, 5 percent were sufficiently suspicious to warrant biopsy. Twenty-eight of these showed cancer. The yield was 3.2 cancers found for every 1,000 women with dense breasts and no other risk factor, and this results in a doubling of the yield from mammograms alone. This study was presented at the Radiological Society of North American in November 2011 and has been accepted for publication in The Breast Journal. This sentinel study is important in justifying the use of adjunctive modalities of breast imaging in women in dense breasts including breast MRI. We will follow the trends in the MRI data over time as well.

In closing, let me commend the committee for your continuing leadership on this issue. Our research here in Connecticut shows the additional use of Ultrasound does detect breast cancers that were missed by the initial mammogram and the utility of MRI will do likewise.