



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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February 25, 2015

Sen. Cassano, Rep. Jutila, and members of the GAE Committee:

I am Sen. Art Linares, and I am testifying in favor of *Senate Bill 112: AN ACT DESIGNATING A WEEK IN OCTOBER AS MALE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WEEK.*

While many of us are aware that October is dedicated to breast cancer awareness, and encourages screening for women, not as many know that 1% of breast cancer diagnoses occur in men. This legislation would create greater awareness among Connecticut's population that men may also be diagnosed with breast cancer. It will recognize and support male patients and their families who are meeting the challenges of the disease.

Male Breast Cancer Awareness Week began in 2009 due to the efforts of several male breast cancer organizations, including Out of the Shadow of Pink. This week has already been officially declared in several states including Pennsylvania (2010), Florida (2011), New Jersey (2012), and Massachusetts (2012). Connecticut should be the next state to officially recognize it.

By spreading awareness of male breast cancer, we can encourage men to take symptoms seriously, and urge screening from a medical professional. Early detection will in turn save lives.

I strongly support S.B.112, and I hope you will too.