

Statement of Jean Weigert, M.D.
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 3, 2016
Senate Bill 158

My name is Dr. Jean Weigert and I am Section Head of Mammography for the Hospital of Central Connecticut and Past President of the RSC. I am here to testify regarding Senate Bill 158. It is very important that the wording of the bill expresses in a clear manner the rights of our patients. The need that all women who fulfill the criteria of having a breast tissue density greater than 50% to have a bilateral breast ultrasound in addition to their screening mammogram. In this manner they have an extremely good chance of an early diagnosis of breast cancer and the best outcome for treatment.

Published data supports the ability for breast ultrasound to diagnose an additional 3-4 cancers per thousand that would not be found by screening mammography alone. However, only about 30% of the women who have such dense breasts are having the additional study. This is mostly due to the cost especially in those who have high deductible insurance plans. We would like to see all women be able to avail themselves for this additional examination. Therefor eliminating any co-pay or deductible is a necessity so that this test can be used to its best advantage for all women.

Thank you