



March 3, 2016

Re: Testimony of Nancy M. Cappello, Ph.D.  
96 Rowley Road, Woodbury CT 06798  
Support of SB 5233

Senator Joe Crisco, Representative Robert Megna and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is Nancy Cappello and I am founder and director of two nonprofit organizations, Are You Dense, Inc. and Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc. I testify today in support of ~~Senate~~<sup>House</sup> Bill 5233.

Many facilities in Connecticut have transitioned to 3D mammography or tomosynthesis in the past few years as global research has demonstrated that tomosynthesis reduces recall rates and improves invasive cancer detection rates which benefit the screening population. Reducing call-backs decrease costs and increased detection improve treatment options and survival outcomes. Tomosynthesis should be covered by insurance in the same manner as 2D – as a preventive well-care measure.

While some studies show a statistical increase in the detection of invasive cancer by tomosynthesis in overall breast tissue composition, tomosynthesis will not replace adjunct screening for women with dense breast tissue.

Like a 2D mammogram, tomosynthesis is an xray. Breast cancers appear as whiter areas on xrays and can be difficult to detect against the white dense breast tissue because of the lack of contrast.

In conclusion, tomosynthesis has shown a direct benefit to improving overall invasive cancer detection rates and diminishing call-backs. Many facilities in Connecticut are using 3D to replace 2D as the first line of defense against breast cancer. However, for women with dense breast tissue, the adjunct screening may still be necessary.