

## **Senate Bill 1538: Breast Cancer Detection and Prevention**

### **IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DETECT CANCER IN DENSE BREASTS**

“The main cause of false-negative results [in screening mammograms] is high breast density.” – National Cancer Institute

“Breast cancer screening is notoriously imperfect: Breast density ... can determine whether or not a mammogram picks up a cancer at all.” – *The San Francisco Chronicle*

“It is critical to understand that the sensitivity of mammography for detecting cancer is lower in dense breasts.” – Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network

“Mammography is not well suited for women with dense breasts” – Journal of Integrative Cancer Therapies

### **WOMEN WITH DENSE BREASTS FACE A GREATER RISK OF CANCER**

“Since the 1970s, radiologists have known that the density of a woman's breasts is an important predictor of breast cancer. The disease is four to six times more likely in women with dense breast tissue than in women whose breasts consist almost entirely of fat.” – *The Los Angeles Times*

“A substantial fraction of breast cancers can be attributed to this [breast density] risk factor.” – New England Journal of Medicine

“Breast density is consistently associated with breast cancer risk, more strongly than most other risk factors for this disease, and extensive breast density may account for a substantial fraction of breast cancer.” – Journal of the National Cancer Institute

## **FOR WOMEN WITH DENSE BREASTS, SUPPLEMENTAL SCREENING IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MAMMOGRAPHY ALONE**

“Combining a mammogram with an ultrasound exam is more effective than mammography alone at detecting breast cancer in women at high risk for the disease, according to a study published in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.” – *The Chicago Sun-Times*

“Mammography and US [ultrasound] together had significantly higher sensitivity (97%) than did mammography.” – Journal of Radiology

“[Ultrasound] with mammography is significantly better than mammography alone for detecting breast cancer, especially for dense-breasted women.” – Journal of European Radiology

## **INFORMING THE PATIENT IS RECOMMENDED**

“The bad news is that 95 percent of women ages 40+ do not know their breast density and nearly 90 percent did not know it increases the risk of developing breast cancer. Compounding the issue was the fact that doctors have spoken with less than one in 10 women ages 40+ (9%) about breast density.”- Harris Interactive

“If a woman has dense breasts, she should talk with her doctor about other breast cancer risk factors and about the benefits and risks associated with a screening ultrasound.” – American College of Radiology

“The RSC (Radiological Society of Connecticut) is delighted to support Senate Bill 458 (Connecticut State Senator Crisco 2009), An Act Requiring Communication of Mammographic Breast Density Information to Patients. RSC believes that women should know all of the options that are available in the way of safe and effective breast examinations.” – Radiological Society of Connecticut