



## Oncology Nursing Society

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July 26, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support of S. 2006, the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) writes in support of S. 2006, the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act, which would ensure that mammography patients are notified of breast tissue density and given opportunity to discuss with their provider whether additional screening is appropriate. This important legislation also calls for more research into screening options for women with dense breasts. ONS urges the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee to favorably advance this legislation.

Since breast density is determined through a mammogram, it is important to ensure that if dense breast tissue is demonstrated, the patient is notified as part of any summary of the mammography report sent pursuant to the federal Mammography Quality Standards Act (Public Law No. 102-539). Mammograms may miss more than 50 percent of cancers in dense breasts. Therefore, informing women demonstrated to have dense breast tissue will allow them to discuss with their provider whether other screening tests are appropriate. Although the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) states that for breast cancer there is insufficient evidence for additional screening, there is an increased risk for breast cancer with dense breasts<sup>1</sup> and many states are requiring notification.

ONS is a professional association of 39,000 members committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families. Together, ONS and the cancer community seek to reduce the risks, incidence, and burden of cancer by encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting early detection, and improving the management of cancer symptoms and side effects throughout the disease trajectory.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership on this issue. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor and would encourage you to contact Donna (Dede) Sweeney, ONS Director of Government Affairs, at dsweeney@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Fennimore".

Laura Fennimore, RN, DNP. NEA-BC  
President, Oncology Nursing Society

cc: Senate HELP Committee

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(14\)00058-5/fulltext](https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(14)00058-5/fulltext)