

JACKIE DINGFELDER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

To: House Health Care Committee
From: State Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Date: May 1st, 2013

Re: Testimony in support of SB 420

Chair Greenlick and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing SB 420 and for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this bill. According to the Center for Disease Control, breast cancer is a leading cause of cancer related deaths among women, killing over 40,000 women in the US in 2009. The good news is that with the use of mammography we are able to catch cancer earlier and when it is more treatable. However, mammography is less effective at catching cancer in women with dense breast tissue.

Dense breast tissue is comprised of less fatty tissue, and more glandular tissue. What this means for purposes of mammograms is that dense breast tissue appears as white; the same color as tumors, making it very difficult to see early stage cancers. In fact, mammograms typically miss 40% or more of tumors in women with dense breasts. In addition to masking cancers, dense breast tissue is an independent risk factor, and can be a greater risk factor than having two first degree relatives with breast cancer. Yet very few women know the risks associated with dense breast tissue, let alone their own breast density.

SB 420 seeks to raise awareness and educate woman about dense breast tissue. SB 420 would require a health care facility that performs a mammogram noting dense breast tissue to issue a notice to the patient educating them about dense breast tissue and the risks associated with dense breast tissue. This will allow women to better understand the risk they face of getting breast cancer, and to understand the limits of mammography.

I urge your support of SB 420 as it will save lives by educating women about the risks of dense breast tissue, make them aware of alternatives to mammography. By passing SB 420 we will increase early detection of breast cancer and improve survival rates, ultimately saving lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Dingfelder".

Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Senate District 23