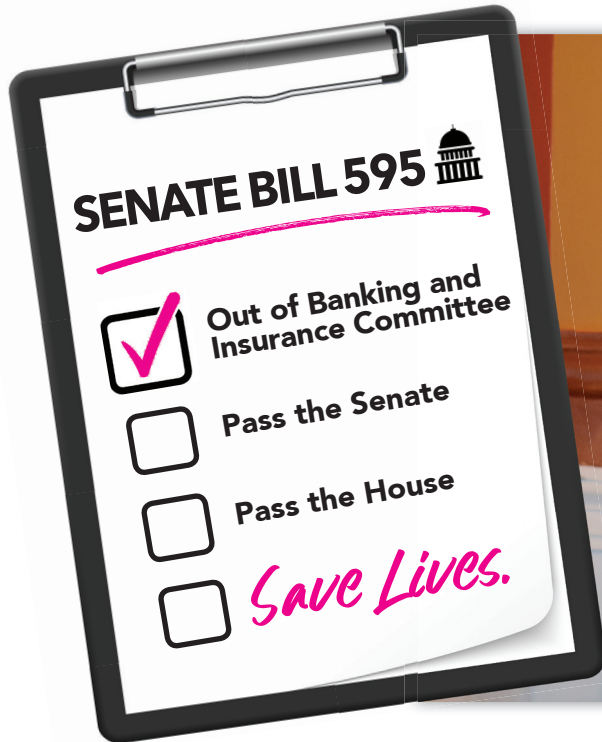


You did it! Senate Committee Votes Unanimously, Senate Bill 595 Moves Forward



SB595 chief sponsor **Sen. Bob Mensch** celebrates the committee vote with PBCC Pres. Pat Halpin-Murphy

You did it! Legislation requiring insurers to cover breast cancer screenings like ultrasound or MRI for women with high-risk factors, including dense breast tissue, now goes to the full Senate for a vote. The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee *unanimously* reported **Sen. Bob Mensch's Senate Bill 595** out of committee as amended. From here, the bill goes to the Senate floor.

Senate Bill 595 covers ultrasound or MRI screenings for women with extremely dense breasts and women with heterogeneously dense breasts who have one other high-risk factor. High-risk factors include personal history of breast cancer, family history, positive genetic testing results, among others. **45 out of 49** senators co-sponsored the bill. To read Senate Bill 595, visit pbcc.me/sb595.



Insurance Committee Minority Chair **Sen. Sharif Street**, breast cancer survivor **Honi Gruenberg** and Committee Chair **Sen. Mario Scavullo**



Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, Pat Halpin-Murphy and Sen. Kim Ward



Imagine if it was your *wife*, your *mother* or your *daughter* trying to find out if they have breast cancer.
What would you do?"

Sen. Christine Tartaglione



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Trouble with Screening Ultrasound or MRI Coverage? Share your Story!

by Pat Halpin-Murphy, President and Founder

Great, great news!


The PA Senate Banking and Insurance Committee unanimously reported our **Senate Bill 595** out of committee! That means it will head to the full Senate for a vote when the Senate returns in 2020.

I think Sen. Tartaglione said it best when she spoke of the impact Senate Bill 595 will have on every person in Pennsylvania. *"Imagine if it was your wife, your mother*

or your daughter" who needed a breast ultrasound or MRI for the clearest picture possible. Are you imagining? Now, imagine it's YOU.

It was me. I had dense breast tissue and was diagnosed with breast cancer late, at Stage III. Today, many women with very dense breasts or other high risk conditions may need additional screenings such as ultrasound or MRI because their dense breast tissue can hide breast cancer on a mammogram

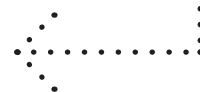
(yes, even on a 3D mammogram). Currently, many women don't know whether their insurer will cover the cost of an ultrasound or MRI. Some insurers do. Some insurers don't. Senate Bill 595 will change that and *all* insurers in PA will be required to cover screenings for women with very dense breasts and other high risk conditions.

If this is happening to you, share your breast cancer screening story with us! Take **action**. Save lives. 

WAYS
to HELP



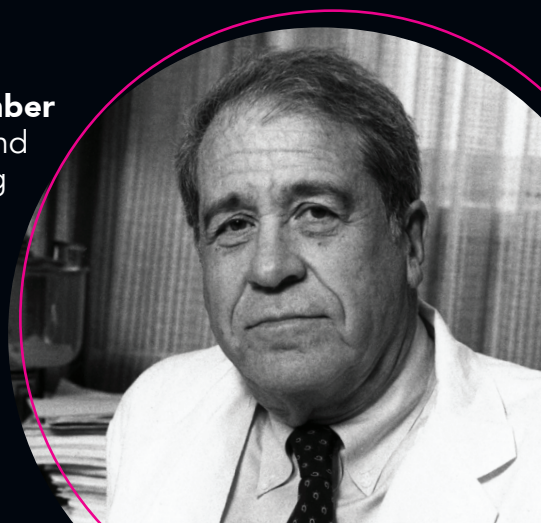
- 1** Contact your state senator and ask him/her to vote **"yes"** on Senate Bill 595 when it comes to the Senate floor.
- 2** ***Let your voice be heard!*** If you have dense breasts or other high risk conditions and your insurer does not cover ultrasound or MRI screenings, please tell us your story! Email mystory@pabreastcancer.org



Remembering Bernard Fisher, MD

PBCC Honorary Board Member and **NSABP founding member Bernard Fisher, MD**, a visionary breast cancer researcher and surgeon, died in October at the age of 101. Dr. Fisher was among the first to recognize the importance of clinical trials, leading the revolutionary NSABP B-06 study, which showed the overall survival after lumpectomy was equal to that of a standard mastectomy.

Dr. Fisher's discoveries improved and saved the lives of women facing breast cancer all over the world. We are honored to have named him our **first-ever PA Breast Cancer Coalition Potamkin Prize Winner**.





Mary Leer

Empowering Advocate & Survivor
from Lancaster County



*Spend a few minutes with Mary and you'll know what makes her life truly full - her family and friends, art, teaching and constant learning. So when she found out she had not one, but **two breast cancers** that did not show up on a mammogram, Mary immersed herself in information about dense breast tissue, screenings, treatment and how to take **action**.*

Tell us about learning you had breast cancer.

MARY: After my mammogram screening indicated a need for follow-up diagnostics, given calcifications in my right breast, I was not too concerned because this had happened to me before. My internal medicine group wanted to see previous mammograms and that step took more time... in the meantime, I felt a lump in my left breast and requested a script for a that one also. I was more concerned about what I could feel than what I couldn't see!

The radiologist told me that the calcifications in the right breast had a less than 30% chance of being cancerous. However, the left breast mass indicated a ductal invasive cancer with 90-95% probability. He showed me the ultrasound. I was floored because I could see for myself that it was invasive and blurted out the question, "How did I miss that? ... then uttered "How did the 3D mammogram miss that, too?"

I was in shock, but felt I needed to process the news and get a second opinion. An MRI picked up what I already knew about the left breast, but flagged the area in the *right* breast that had been deemed benign.

The process of realizing the very real possibility that I may have synchronous bilateral ductal invasive breast cancer was indeed scary, but not as scary as what could have been missed and how far my Stage 1 could have


progressed in another year. So, ironically, I felt a huge sense of relief that the second cancer was confirmed and the bullet of a more serious outcome was dodged.

What do you wish you had known about breast density? What do you want other women to know?

MARY: I knew I had dense breasts, but I did not know that my category of "extremely dense" breasts put me at a much greater risk of developing breast cancer.

At the October PBCC conference, I attended a session on breast density. What I learned there helped me understand better my path to diagnosis. I want women to pay close attention to the category of density of their breasts, as stated in their mammogram report. If you have heterogeneous or extremely dense breasts, a 3D mammogram will have a margin of error that puts you at risk of cancer that goes undetected. Early detection can save your life. Do self breast exams. The absolute bottom line is that knowledge is power.

Why do you feel Senate Bill 595, which requires insurance coverage of ultrasound and MRI is so critical?

MARY: Without my detection of a lump, without an ultrasound of that lump, and without an MRI assessment of the other breast, I would be walking around today with two cancers undiagnosed and untreated for another year. This is why I know you have to be a strong advocate for SB 595. It is a way to demonstrate your advocacy... that you love your body and will protect it. Insurance companies should realize how much more astronomically expensive it would be to "cover" the expenses of vigilant treating of Stage 4 cancer that is chronic and incurable. Senate Bill 595 is the only ethical, as well as fiscally, responsible option in my opinion. 

“
I was floored because I could see for myself that it was invasive and blurted out the question, 'How did I *miss* that?' then uttered 'how did the 3D mammogram miss that, too?'

BRA-VO! The Boatload of Bras set sail this fall, raising \$10,000 for breast cancer survivors and researchers in PA! THANK YOU, **Community Aid** and **BOB 94.9FM** for donating a total of \$50,000 to our cause!



GRASSROOTS PARTNERS



1. Gessleman Pink Out Ride - \$6,111



2. Pink the Coop - \$12,777



3



4



5



6



3. Lancaster Plumbing, Cooling, Heating and Electrical - \$1,600 | **4. Heritage Hills "Pink Out at the Pub" - \$824**
5. Save the Ta-Tas Trail Ride - \$9,010 | **6. Harrisburg Rugby Football Club - \$1,000**



7. Vynecrest Vineyards & Winery - \$558 | 8. Field of Screams Zombie Fun Run - \$7,905 | 9. GEODIS - \$6,140
10. Neumann University Volleyball Team - \$310 | 11. CrossFit 717 - \$1,200 | 12. Kutztown University Ice Hockey - \$620

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pucks with Pros

March 27-28

Hershey, PA

puckswithpros.com



Host an event in your community!
 Visit pbcc.me/hostevent and get started!

Breast Cancer Screening for Women with Dense Breasts, High Risk Factors

Wendie Berg, MD, PhD, FACR

Magee-Womens Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine




Breast cancer is more easily and less expensively treated if found early. For some women, mammograms alone are not enough to detect their breast cancer.

Women with an increased risk for breast cancer, including women with dense breasts may need additional screenings such as ultrasound and MRI. About *half of cancers* present

are missed on a mammogram in women with dense breast tissue.

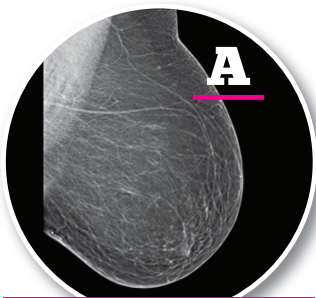
Women with dense breasts are also more likely to develop breast cancer. 3D mammography (tomosynthesis) improves detection of early breast cancer in most women, but not in those with extremely dense breast tissue. About 43 percent of women undergoing screening mammography have dense breasts,

including 7 percent with extremely dense breasts.

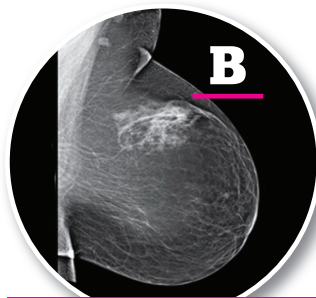
MRI greatly improves breast cancer detection and is recommended for women at high risk based on personal history of breast cancer, family history, disease-causing gene mutations, or other factors. Ultrasound can be considered in women with dense breasts not able to have MRI. 

4 LEVELS of BREAST DENSITY

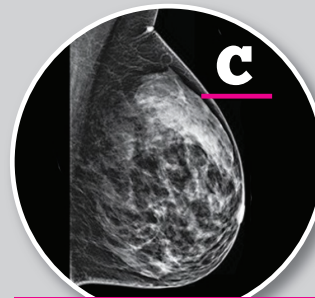
© DenseBreast-Info.org and Wendie Berg, MD, PhD



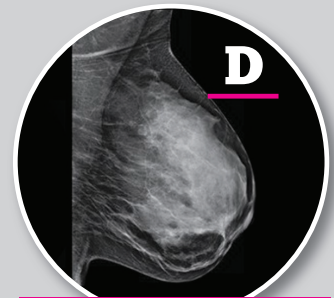
Fatty



Scattered



Heterogeneously Dense



Extremely Dense

- ▶ 13% of women
- ▶ 86-98% of cancers present detected on mammogram

- ▶ 43% of women
- ▶ 78-90% of cancers present detected on mammogram

- ▶ 36% of women
- ▶ may obscure small masses
- ▶ 70-83% of cancers present detected on mammogram

- ▶ 7% of women
- ▶ lowers the sensitivity of mammography
- ▶ 61-65% of cancers present detected on mammogram



Thank you to our 2019
participating car dealerships!



Volkswagen

READING



Volkswagen



Special thanks to

Laraine Forry and PBCC Board Member Helen Michener,
our driving force on this project since 2015!



2397 Quentin Road, Suite B,
Lebanon, PA 17042
800-377-8828
PABreastCancer.org



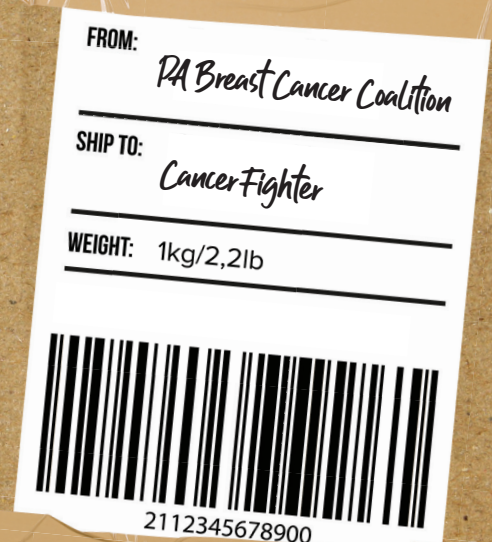
*It touched my heart...
and made me realize I am not alone in this fight.
When I opened it, I cried. I can't thank you enough."*

↖ **Mary**, Friends Like Me care package recipient

This giving season, think *inside* the box.

Your gift helps us fill a **Friends Like Me care package** for a woman who just found out she has breast cancer. Each box costs **\$125** to fill and send. Fill it with resources, small gifts and a sense of hope for the months that lie ahead.

Make a gift today
pbcc.me/give ↖



handle with care!