



*Pat Halpin-Murphy  
President and Founder*

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## **PA SENATE PASSES SENATE BILL 358, PAVES WAY FOR CRUCIAL DENSE BREAST TISSUE SCREENING GUIDELINES**

*Groundbreaking legislation to potentially save thousands of lives through dense breast tissue notification*

**HARRISBURG, Pa.** – The PA Senate has unanimously passed **Senate Bill 358**, sponsored by **PA Sen. Bob Mensch** and championed by the **PA Breast Cancer Coalition**, which would require radiologists to notify patients who have dense breast tissue. The vote follows the bill's passage in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by **PA Sen. Pat Vance**. This legislation will educate women on what it means to have dense breasts and the potential screening options available to them. Women with dense breasts have an increased risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer at a later stage.

“Dense breast tissue can mask tumors in the breast, making them more difficult to detect at early stages through a mammogram. Senate Bill 358 enables those with dense breast tissue to have the information they need to make critical decisions regarding their breast health,” said **PBCC President and Founder Pat Halpin-Murphy**. “I commend our senators for recognizing the importance of this issue and for shining the spotlight on women’s health in Pennsylvania.

Every day, 32 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Pennsylvania. There were more than 232,000 new cases of breast cancer among women reported in the U.S. this year, with nearly 40,000 deaths.

**PA Sen. Bob Mensch** has spearheaded this effort to improve the early detection of breast cancer in the state. “According to a recent poll, about 40 percent of women who get mammograms have dense breast tissue, but almost 95 percent of women are unaware of their own breast density,” Sen. Mensch said. “Without an established protocol of informing women, most are unaware of their breast density even after a mammogram. Better communication and better screening can save lives.”

Halpin-Murphy calls on PA residents to take action. “We must now encourage members of the PA House of Representatives to pass this significant legislation,” said Halpin-Murphy. “Our goal is to have this become law in time for the PA Breast Cancer Coalition’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The PBCC urges Pennsylvanians to get in touch with their own state representative and help us make that goal a reality.”

The PBCC, celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, represents, supports and serves breast cancer survivors and their families in Pennsylvania through educational programming, legislative advocacy and breast cancer research grants. The PBCC is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to *finding a cure now...so our daughters won't have to*. For more information, please call 800-377-8828 or visit [www.PABreastCancer.org](http://www.PABreastCancer.org).

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