

**comprehensive
cancer**

**control &
prevention**

K A N S A S

**COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL
PARTNERSHIP**

**Testimony Presented on behalf of the
Kansas Cancer Partnership
Peggy L Johnson, Co-Chair
Senate Bill 407
February 16, 2012**

On behalf of the over 165 members of the Kansas Cancer Partnership I appreciate the opportunity to talk with you today. My name is Peggy Johnson, I am the Executive Director and COO of the Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation. I also serve as the Co-chair of the Partnership with Dr. Gary Doolittle, Medical Director of the Mid-West Cancer Alliance a division of the KU Cancer Center who serves as the Chair of the Partnership.

Cancer will affect one out of every three women and every two men during their lifetime – either directly or through a loved one. Cancer is an extremely costly disease – an estimated 1.6 billion dollars are spent every year on cancer in Kansas – that's 4.4 million dollars per day. The Kansas Cancer Partnership was developed to address the burden on cancer on Kansas and her citizens. The Partnership developed a plan designed to diminish the burden of cancer in our state and I would be pleased to make sure each of has an updated copy of the plan.

More women die in the state of Kansas from breast cancer than any other cancer. Early detection of breast cancer is critical. Early detection not only saves lives but vital resources such as time and money. Women with dense breast are four to five times more likely to get breast cancer than women with low dense breast. Breast density refers to the proportions of fat and tissue in the breasts as seen on a mammogram. High density means there is a greater amount of tissue compared to fat, and low density would be a greater amount of fat compared to tissue.

One third of women over the age of 40 have dense breast tissue. Yet, according to a recent Harris survey

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95 percent of women over 40 have no idea about their breast density and what it means to their risk for breast cancer, and less than 10 percent of doctors are talking with their patients about their breast density and the risk factors involved.

The Kansas Cancer Partnership supports patients being informed about their breast density and the possibility of increased risk factors for breast cancer. It is not enough to provide a dense breast report, that report has to be made available to the patient and the patient has to be educated on her risks. We also believe there needs to be language provided as to what options are available for screenings such as an ultrasound or MRI as in the original bill.

We would also provide a word of caution about the wording included in this bill. Whatever wording is provided in a report should not in any way discourage women from using yearly mammograms. We are concerned with the language ' Therefore, this statement is not provided to cause undue concerns', which actually could in turn cause concerns or cause women to not trust mammography.

The Kansas Cancer Partnership encourages the approval of this bill with the above concerns, plus we do encourage this committee to consider who or what agency will have oversight for the bill and be responsible for implementing the bill.

Thank you for your time today.

Peggy L. Johnson, Co-Chair, Kansas Cancer Partnership
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