June 10, 2002

The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), I want to thank you for your leadership in the reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). We strongly urge Congress to enact H.R. 4888 this year.

MQSA has continued to improve the quality of mammograms nationwide by establishing minimum national quality standards for mammography facilities and personnel as well as a rigorous annual inspection program to ensure those standards are being met. It is an important component of making current breast cancer detection as safe and reliable as possible.

NBCC is extremely pleased that H.R. 4888 maintains language that would require facilities to provide direct written notification of mammographic results to all patients. We continue to believe that direct notification is the best public policy.

One of NBCC's primary goals is to increase access to high quality breast cancer care. NBCC recognizes the importance of developing true prevention - stopping breast cancer from occurring altogether - and innovative, more accurate ways to detect and treat breast cancer. At the same time, current detection methods must be made as effective as possible for women across the country. We look forward to working with the Committee to continue to find ways to improve the MQSA program.

Thank you again for your leadership and support. Please do not hesitate to call me, or NBCC's Deputy Director of Government Relations, Jennifer Katz, at (202) 973-0595, if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Fran Visco

Fran Visco
President

cc: Members, House Committee on Energy and Commerce