Y-me National Breast Cancer Organization

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June 10, 2002

The Honorable John Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: 202/225-5288

Dear Congressman Dingell,

As Chief Executive Officer of Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, I am writing on behalf of my organization in support of H.R. 4888, the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act. It is my honor to lend Y-ME's name to the list of esteemed organizations and individuals who support this important piece of legislation.

Since its implementation in 1992, the Mammography Quality Standards Act has been instrumental in ensuring that women who obtain mammograms receive the highest level of care. Prior to this program, mammograms were often performed in substandard facilities and interpreted by under-qualified individuals. The peace of mind that comes with the knowledge that one's mammography facility is accredited by the FDA is important during a stressful procedure.

Mammography obviously won't prevent breast cancer. However, we know it can allow us to find cancer earlier, and with earlier treatment, women have a much higher rate of survival. While more research is needed to find the root cause of this devastating disease so that we may someday be able to prevent it, we must for the time being use mammography in the most efficient manner and with the highest standards.

The implementation of the GAO Study and Report, conducted by the Comptroller General of the United States, as well as the Institute of Medicine study are important ways in which this dynamic piece of legislation continues to ensure that mammography's scope expands, and its standard of quality remains at its highest.

Thank you for your commitment to the health of all women and to the continued funding of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Margaret C Kirk

Margaret C. Kirk
Chief Executive Officer
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization

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