The Susan G. Komen
Breast Cancer Foundation

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VIA FACSIMILE: 202.225.5288

ATTN: Jessica McNiece

The Honorable John Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 4888, Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2002

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2002. The Komen Foundation commends you for your efforts in bringing this important issue into the nation's consciousness and for your commitment to ensuring that all women in this country have access to early detection.

The Komen Foundation, a leading catalyst in the fight against breast cancer, is comprised of 116 Affiliates nationwide, and 3 international Affiliates, with over 75,000 volunteers. Since its inception in 1982, Komen has raised more than $450 million in furtherance of its mission—to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. Komen dedicates millions of dollars annually towards scientific and community outreach projects. The Komen Foundation Research Program has awarded more than 700 grants, totaling more than $90 million for breast cancer research. Last year, Komen awarded more than $20.4 million in grants to support institutions conducting cutting-edge imaging technology research. In addition, Komen Affiliates have funded hundreds of non-duplicative, community-based breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment projects for the medically underserved.

Early detection of breast cancer saves lives. Mammography screening remains the gold standard in the early detection of breast cancer. In the past decade, breast cancer mortality rates have declined in the United States. This is due, in large measure, to early detection and timely treatment. Mammography screening, to reduce breast cancer mortality, must be sensitive enough to detect the disease. The MQSA established a national standard of mammography care. Since enactment of the MQSA, women throughout the country have gained further confidence in their mammograms, as well as in those individuals and facilities that provide services as part of screening for breast cancer.

Our feedback from Komen Affiliate members across the country is that women are grateful for these minimum standards and uniformity.

Given the importance of quality mammography screening in the fight against breast cancer, the Komen Foundation also supports adequate reimbursement for costs associated with high quality mammography and compliance with MQSA standards.

The Komen Foundation applauds your efforts in advancing an issue of utmost importance, and we offer our deepest appreciation for your continued commitment to ensuring access to quality care for all Americans.

Very truly yours,

Susan Braun

Susan Braun
President and CEO