



January 31, 2007

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski,

As you know, in September 2006 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released the results of its study on mammography capacity in this country; the report concluded that the number of mammography facilities, mammography equipment, technologists and radiologists who perform mammography all declined in the period between 2001 and 2004. Last week, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report sounded a second alarm: the number of women who obtained a mammogram between 2000 and 2005 had declined by more than a million. Although the reasons for this decline have yet to be elucidated, we are deeply concerned that the diminishing supply of mammography facilities and personnel, as heralded in the GAO report, may be contributing to this disturbing decline in women undergoing life-saving mammography screening.

The American College of Radiology (ACR) and the Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) appreciate your leadership on women's health issues as demonstrated by your sponsorship of the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 and its subsequent reauthorizations. As Congress once again takes up reauthorization of MQSA this year, we look forward to working with you to address some of the issues that are contributing to the decline in equipment, personnel, and mammography utilization. We trust that with your leadership, the MQSA reauthorization bill can redress these and other trends that threaten to reverse the gains we have achieved in reducing deaths from breast cancer.

As you and your staff begin the MQSA reauthorization process, the ACR and SBI stand ready to work with you to achieve our common goal of ensuring the accessibility and affordability of quality mammography services for our patients, your constituents, and all women in America. Please contact Gloria Romanelli (703-716-7550) or Josh Cooper (703-262-9308) in ACR's Government Affairs office or Michele Whittling with SBI (703-715-4390) should you have any questions or if we can otherwise be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Carol H. Lee, MD - Chair
Breast Imaging Commission,
American College of Radiology

R. James Brenner, MD - President
Society of Breast Imaging