



**JOHN F. TAVAGLIONE**  
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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January 14, 2010



Honorable Jeff Grover  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Stanislaus County  
1010 10th St., Ste. 6500  
Modesto, California 95354

Re: Early Detection of Breast Cancer

Dear Colleague:

Recently, the U.S. Preventative Services Taskforce released a recommendation (advisory only) to reduce the frequency of mammograms and, ultimately, early breast cancer detection. On this "advisory" recommendation, the California Department of Public Health modified its current policies to halt reimbursement to providers for mammograms conducted on patients under 50 years of age. This, of course, decreases the chances of early detection, and potentially increases the rate of mortality in women with the disease.

The American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology, both recommend that women 40 years and younger be encouraged to receive annual mammograms to aid in the early detection of the disease. We agree with their recommendations.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors, lead by Supervisor Jeff Stone, recently adopted the attached resolution which will be forwarded to the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, and the California Department of Public Health. We hope your Board will consider the same resolution.

Respectfully,

John F. Tavaglione  
Riverside County Supervisor  
CSAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2010 JAN 19 A 11:50

County of Riverside

Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-357  
RESOLUTION REGARDING  
REGULAR EXAMINATION OF BREASTS  
EXTENDS LIVES (R.E.B.E.L.)

Whereas, the breast cancer incidence in women in the United States is 1 in 8 (about 13%), and

Whereas, 1% of all breast cancer cases occur in men, and 400 men will die from breast cancer annually, and

Whereas, **early detection** of breast cancer has been shown to increase ones chance of survival of this disease, and

Whereas, educating people at a young age to perform self breast examination can result in early detection and hence an earlier diagnosis which yields a better prognosis for a full recovery, and

Whereas, recommending that all woman 40 years of age and older receive regular mammograms to aid in the early detection of the disease has been endorsed by the **American Cancer Society** and the **American College of Radiology**, and

Whereas, the mortality rate of breast cancer has been **reduced by** 3.5% from 2001 to 2004 crediting early detection as a component of this decreased mortality, and

Whereas, the U.S. Preventative Services Taskforce (Taskforce) findings are supposedly viewed as *advisory only*, the results have prompted the California Department of Public Health to modify it's current policies to reflect the Taskforce's recommendations to halt reimbursement to providers providing mammograms to patients under 50 years of age, thereby decreasing the chances of early detection and increasing the rate of mortality in women, and

Whereas, the incidences of 182,460 cases diagnosed in 2008 will increase to a higher number in the future as a result of the Taskforce's recommendations, and

Now, therefore let it be resolved, that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims that the U.S. Preventative Services Taskforce be **admonished**, and it's recommendations that women no longer perform self breast examinations, and that the age of routine mammogram screening be increased from 40 years of age to 50 years of age, be condemned as irresponsible, and continue to support the American Cancer Society's recommendations that early detection via self-breast examination, at any age, and

1 routine mammograms be continued for women 40 years of age or  
2 older to save lives, and urge the State Department of Health to  
3 restore it's original policy of paying for mammograms in woman 40  
4 years of age or older.

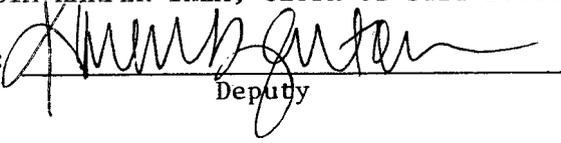
4 ADOPTED by Riverside County Board of Supervisors on December 15, 2009.

5 ROLL CALL:

6 Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit, and Ashley  
7 Nays: None  
8 Absent: None

9 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly  
10 adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

11 KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board

12 By: 

13 Deputy