Helping women

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Last month I traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with three Pittsburgh-area congressmen, Reps. Mike Doyle, Tim Murphy and Keith Rothfus, about a critical preventive service for women: 3-D mammography.

Studies have shown that 3-D mammography increases the detection of invasive breast cancers by up to 40 percent and reduces unnecessary additional testing (false positives) by up to 40 percent, compared with traditional 2-D mammography. However, until insurance properly reimburses for this service, not all women will be able to benefit from it.

Thank you, Reps. Doyle, Murphy and Rothfus for engaging in this discussion and for supporting technology that helps doctors find breast cancers early, when they are easiest to treat. THOMAS S. CHANG, M.D.