

The Society of Breast Imaging commends the thorough data finding effort and analysis by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in defining many of the issues confronting breast imaging practice. However, some proposed solutions may have a negative impact on the goals sought by both the IOM and society at large.

While increased regulation aims to improve breast health care, the problems of workforce shortage and low reimbursement will be aggravated by implementation of such measures. The need for providing sufficient incentives to create an infrastructure that will support improved delivery of care MUST precede, rather than occur concurrently with, the imposition of additional regulatory burden on a workforce that is approaching crisis level shortages.

The Society of Breast Imaging, as the largest national organization specifically committed to breast imaging, invites further dialogue that will lead to deliberate and successful solutions of the issues defined in the IOM Report.