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**Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Insurance & Real Estate Committee
February 18, 2014**

**Re: S.B. 8, AA Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Lung Cancer Screening
S.B. 10, AAC Deductibles for Breast Ultrasound Screenings**

Senators Crisco and Kelly, Representatives Megna and Sampson, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) regarding **S.B. 8, AA Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Lung Cancer Screening**, which would require health insurance coverage for lung cancer screening tests; **and S.B. 10, AAC Deductibles for Breast Ultrasound Screenings**, which would prohibit insurers from imposing a deductible for breast ultrasound screenings for those with individual health insurance policies.

Impact on CT Women

Breast cancer and lung cancer are diagnosed more often than any other cancers in Connecticut women at 29% for breast cancer and 14% for lung cancer.¹

Breast Cancer in CT	Lung Cancer in CT²
2nd: CT's rank in rates of breast cancer nationwide. ³ 3,280: The number of CT women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011. ⁴ 50: 3 out of 4 breast cancers diagnosed in CT are in women over this age. ⁵	109,690: The number of women diagnosed with new cases of lung cancer in 2012. 1,335: The number of CT women diagnosed with lung cancer annually.

Breast cancer incidence is highest among white women while breast cancer mortality is highest, and breast cancer survival poorest, among black women.⁶ Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for both

¹ CT Tumor Registry (2009). Cancer in Connecticut With a Focus on Tobacco Related Cancers.

² Ibid.

³ Komen for the Cure Connecticut (2011). Connecticut Has the Second Highest Incidence of Breast Cancer in the U.S.

⁴ American Cancer Society (2011). Cancer Facts & Figures.

⁵ CT Department of Public Health (2011). Breast Cancer in Connecticut.

⁶ Ibid.

women and men; more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast, and prostate cancer combined each year.⁷ The five year survival rate for CT women with lung cancer is only 20%.⁸

A lack of health insurance is associated with a more advanced stage diagnosis. For example, breast cancer patients with lower incomes have lower 5-year relative survival rates than higher-income patients at every stage of diagnosis.⁹ Passage of these bills could make it affordable to conduct early screenings and treatment, thus potentially increasing survival rates. We look forward to working with you to address this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

⁷ American Cancer Society (2012) What are the key statistics about lung cancer?

⁸ The CT Tumor Registry, footnote 1.

⁹ American Cancer Society (2010). Breast Cancer Facts and Figures.