



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

March 3, 2008

Public Health Initiatives Branch, Richard Edmonds, Branch Chief 509-7655

### **Senate Bill 459 - An Act Promoting the Early Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer**

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The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 459. It is important to note neither the enacted state budget nor the Governor's proposed budget for the Department of Public Health includes funding for this initiative.

The Connecticut Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (CBCCEDP) provides screening, diagnostic and treatment services to low-income, uninsured Connecticut women. Under the current program screening guidelines, approximately 8,500 women are screened annually. The CBCCEDP was established in October 1995 and has provided critical breast and cervical cancer screening, diagnostic, and treatment services on a continuous basis. National Program data show that women who were screened annually through the program are diagnosed with breast cancer at earlier, more treatable stages versus women who were diagnosed with breast cancer during their initial screening through the program.

Using estimates prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, increased income eligibility criteria will allow for an additional 11,540 low-income, uninsured women to receive services through the Connecticut Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

The additional fifteen million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be used to continue and expand implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Cancer Plan. The funds would provide key stakeholders with resources to continue their efforts in combating cancer in Connecticut, but more specifically, to maintain current initiatives in tobacco cessation, nutrition and physical activity efforts, breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening, statewide clinical trials network, survivor resource inventory, professional education for end of life care, and evaluation. New initiatives to be included under this increased funding are environmental and behavioral risk factor initiatives, lung cancer pilot project, access to care initiatives, health care systems improvement, and disparities needs assessment.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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