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**Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
March 1, 2012**

**Testimony of the American Cancer Society**

**HB 5228 – An Act Requiring Disclosure To Insureds Of The Preventive Services Not Subject To Cost-Sharing Requirements Pursuant To The Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act.**

Cancer is a major public health problem in Connecticut and the United States, and is our nation's second leading cause of death, killing more Americans every year than every war in the 20<sup>th</sup> century combined. About 21,000 Connecticut residents are expected to develop cancer in 2012 and more than 7,000 Connecticut residents will die this year from cancer. However, cancer is also the most preventable and curable among our nation's chronic diseases.

We know that 60% of all cancer deaths could be avoided by applying proven prevention and early detection strategies, however less than half of Americans get recommended prevention services. Unfortunately, despite enormous advances in the prevention of disease, the health care system has traditionally focused on treating people after they become sick or injured, instead of keeping them well in the first place. Prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), only 4 percent of all federal health care spending went toward prevention and early detection.

Yet in recent years, the cancer mortality rate has actually fallen slightly—due in large part to existing prevention and early detection screenings and services. The Affordable Care Act recognizes this success and expands the access and availability of preventative services. The ACA requires insurance plans to remove cost sharing barriers such as co-pays and deductibles for those services that rate A or B according to the recommendations of the US Preventative Services Task Force.

HB 5228 would help educate consumers by providing them with information on the prevention services that are available a no cost. The bill requires providers to make such information available to patients in writing prior to or at the time of their doctor visits. The American Cancer Society strongly supports this common sense pro-consumer bill.

Prevention and early detection screenings have helped to prevent and detect cancer at its earliest stages, saving lives and long-term health care costs. Increased public awareness of no cost preventative services will go a long way towards helping save lives, save money and will ultimately reduce the health care cost burden on the state of Connecticut.

We respectfully urge a Favorable Report on HB 5228.

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