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**Testimony of
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Before the
Public Health Committee
February 20, 2013**

Re: H.B. 5728, AAC A Study of Breast Cancer Rates in the State and Potential Causes

Senators Gerratana and Welch, Representatives Johnson and Srinivasan, 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 **H.B. 5728, AAC A Study of Breast Cancer Rates in the State and Potential Causes**, which would require the Department of Public health to study possible causes for breast cancer incidents in the state and identify environmental risks that may be removed.

Impact on CT Women

Breast cancer is diagnosed more often than any other cancer and is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in Connecticut women.¹ Breast cancer incidence is highest among white women while breast cancer mortality is highest, and breast cancer survival poorest, among black women.²

Breast Cancer by the Numbers

- 2rd: 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

Studying the causes and environmental risks for breast cancer would greatly impact those with and at risk of breast cancer. We look forward to working with you to address this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ CT Department of Public Health. *Breast Cancer in Connecticut*.

² Ibid.

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

⁴ American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures*, 2011.

⁵ CT Department of Public Health. *Breast Cancer in Connecticut*.