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of the Northeast

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Testimony before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Michelle Caul, Manager of Health Education

An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Lung Cancer Screening

Good Morning Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and other Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Michelle Caul and I serve as the Manager of Health Education at the American Lung Association (ALA) in Connecticut. The American Lung Association is a not-for-profit public health organization dedicated to fighting lung disease through research, education and public policy.

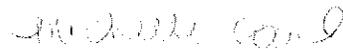
The American Lung Association in Connecticut supports Senate Bill 8, An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Lung Cancer Screening which seeks to require health insurance coverage for lung cancer screening tests.

The advantage to SB 8, is that Connecticut residents with certain private insurance plans may have access to lung cancer screening without a copay up to a year earlier than the federal requirement under the Affordable Care Act. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in the United States. The five-year survival rate for lung cancer patients is only 16 percent. The screening test has the potential to dramatically improve lung cancer survival rates by finding the disease at an earlier, more treatable stage.

We also ask that the language be amended to include the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommendations in place of the American Lung Association's recommendations.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our testimony with you. This bill has the potential to save someone's life and just one life makes SB 8 important to pass. The American Lung Association is committed to fighting lung disease through public policy efforts such as this one.

Thank you,



Michelle Caul

CT Manager, Health Education

American Lung Association in Connecticut