



RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY

Testimony of the Radiological Society of Connecticut (RSC)

Senate Bill 8

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 18, 2014

Sen. Crisco, Rep. Megna and members of the committee:

The Radiological Society of Connecticut is the state chapter of the American College of Radiology, and includes membership of over 400 radiologists, radiation oncologists, and medical physicists. Last year we spoke in support of Senate Bill 862 and therefore we come to speak again in strong support of S.B.8

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer of American and Connecticut residents, killing more than the next 3 cancers combined. This is partially due to the fact that until now, there has been no effective screening test available.

Many individuals have been proponents of screening since 2001, when a consortium of academic centers called the Early Lung Cancer Action Project released data on the effectiveness of CT scanning as a screening test. At that time, a number of entities wanted to submit a bill to use tobacco settlement money for subsidy of screening for people at risk, but many responsible scientific organizations, including the RSC, wanted even more definitive data on efficacy before advocating widespread use. Just as we did regarding support of breast cancer screening with ultrasound, RSC waited for more definitive data that underwent the most rigorous scientific design and scrutiny before last year when we introduced a bill similar to the one you have before you today. Now, those research studies have been done and, in fact, were terminated early because of the overwhelming evidence. In 2010, results from the landmark National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, were released. The 53,000-person trial found a 20% reduction in deaths from lung cancer among current and former heavy smokers screened with low-dose helical CT. NCCN and the American Cancer Society, both highly respected scientific organizations, have now published guidelines recommending screening of high risk individuals with low-dose CT scanning. It is now time to act.

Since last year's bill was introduced, the U.S. Preventative Task Force (UPSTF) has come out in support of screening for lung cancer using low dose CT scans in the high risk population giving it a B rating. There is no doubt that this is a rating that is consistent with all known research regarding scientific, social and economic impacts of this deadly disease.

Important data on smoking in Connecticut and its cost:

High School students who smoke - 15.9% (32,100)

Youth (under 18) who become new daily smokers each year - 4,300

Youth now under 18 and alive in Connecticut who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking - 7,600.