Connecticut State Medical Society
FOUNDED IN 1792

127 Washington Avenue, East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473
Phone (203) 865-0587 Fax (203) 865-4997 www.csms.org

**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony**
**Insurance and Real Estate Committee**
**Senate Bill 190 An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis For Breast Cancer Screening**
**March 6, 2014**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 190 An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis For Breast Cancer Screening. This legislation would require coverage for tomosynthesis in addition to a mammogram and allow women the option to choose either process for breast cancer screening in consultation with their treating physician.

Approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Tomosynthesis differs from a mammogram in that it creates a 3-dimensional picture of the breast whereas a mammogram usually takes two X-rays of each breast: from top to bottom and side to side. Several limitations of mammography include the compression required is often uncomfortable and could deter women from seeking screening. The compression also causes overlap of the breast tissue that can hide cancer and not be seen on the mammogram. In addition, mammograms are limited by their lack of dimension.

Tomosysnthesis takes multiple pictures from multiple angles to create a high resolution picture of the entire breast with often less obstruction. Also, while the breast is positioned in the same manner as a conventional mammogram, significantly less compression is applied on to keep the breast stable during the procedure, reducing the level of discomfort for the patient.

The quality of the picture provided by tomosynthesis significantly lowers the recall rate for further studies. This not only prevents the need for additional expensive services, but eliminates prolonged worrying over potential outcomes.

Please support Senate Bill 190