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## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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### Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 5832, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Screenings Insurance and Real Estate Committee Tuesday, February 17, 2015

I would like to thank Chairman Crisco, Chairman Megna, Ranking Member Kelly, and Ranking Member Sampson for raising H.B. 5832, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Screenings.

I speak for women throughout our state who, in one way or another, have been impacted by breast cancer. This bill is an important step forward, as it is a means to ensure that all women have access to an early cancer diagnosis, and thus a far greater likelihood of surviving. Connecticut has consistently been a leader in providing excellent insurance coverage for breast cancer screening for women. Early detection of breast cancer is imperative to ensure a high survival rate against this deadly disease. If caught early, women with breast cancer can go on to lead full and healthy lives after treatment. Currently, Connecticut law requires health insurance policies to provide coverage for mammograms for women over thirty-five. Additionally, Connecticut law requires insurance coverage for MRIs or ultrasound screenings if a woman has dense breasts.

This bill enhances the options for breast cancer screenings by adding tomosynthesis to the type of screening that must be covered by insurance. Tomosynthesis is an FDA approved method of mammography that produces



three dimensional images of the breast. Tomosynthesis can provide clearer and more accurate views of the breast allowing doctors to more effectively pinpoint the location, size and shape of any abnormalities.

Second only to a cure, early detection is the best step we can take against breast cancer. Therefore, I urge the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to pass H.B. 5832 to require insurance coverage for tomosynthesis to provide women in Connecticut with access to an important tool in the early detection of breast cancer.

Once again, thank you for your consideration.

