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Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

*The State's leading force for women's equality*

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**Testimony of  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Before the  
Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
February 3, 2015**

Re: **S.B. 7, AAC Health Insurance Coverage of Orally and Intravenously Administered Medications**

Senators Crisco and Kelly, Representatives Megna and Sampson, and distinguished members of the Insurance committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) in support of **S.B. 7, AAC Health Insurance Coverage of Orally and Intravenously Administered Medications**.

S.B. 7 would require insurance companies who already provide coverage for intravenous administered medications to also cover the same medications if they are available to be administered orally. Thanks to advancements in modern medicine some medications, including some forms of chemotherapy, can now be taken in the form of a pill or liquid, instead of solely through an IV.

This bill would aid all cancer patients to treat their illnesses but is particularly significant to women because:

- Connecticut has the second highest rate of breast cancer in the country.<sup>1</sup>
- Breast cancer is diagnosed more often than any other cancer and is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in Connecticut women.<sup>2</sup>
- The most common cause of cancer death in CT women is lung cancer (25%) followed by breast cancer (15%) and colon cancer (10%).<sup>3</sup>

While it is up to a doctor and patient to decide whether intravenous or oral medications make the most sense, there are benefits to being able to take medication by mouth. Those benefits include (1) the ability to be in the comforts of one's home instead of sitting in a hospital for hours at a time connected to an IV and (2) the avoidance of more invasive medical interventions such as chemotherapy ports. Providing doctors and patients with more options for treatment benefits all Connecticut women – those soon to be diagnosed with cancer and those in the future.

<sup>1</sup> Komen CT (2011). CT Has the Second Highest Incidence of Breast in the U.S..

<sup>2</sup> CT Department of Public Health (2011). Breast Cancer in Connecticut.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.