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**Human Services Committee  
March 8, 2016  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Testimony**

**HB 5251 - AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID**

During challenging economic conditions it is understandable that difficult choices have to be made. These are decisions that need to be made with careful and deliberate consideration, and we recognize the efforts of the Governor and the Legislature in achieving that end. As careful as these decisions need to be, there also needs to be deliberation regarding the long-term effects that specific actions may have. In 2016 it is estimated that approximately 21,700 Connecticut residents will be diagnosed with cancer while 6,780 will die from the disease.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports **HB 5241– AN ACT MEDICAID**. The bill requires the Commissioner of Social Services to conduct a study of the impact on patient access to care due to Medicaid programs under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The Commissioner would be required to submit a report on the results of the study, including recommendations to address any access issues, to the Legislature by July 1, 2017.

We view this as an important study. As part of the painful cuts made last year, the reimbursement methodology in Medicaid state plan for radiological and imaging services was reduced by 42.5%. The Governor's FY '17 budget revision seeks to make those cuts permanent. While implementation is ongoing, the impact will likely be significant, especially in areas with smaller hospitals and lower capacity. Medicaid rate reimbursement cuts are leading to fewer providers accepting new Medicaid clients and, coupled with non-Medicaid cuts to hospitals that have already led to reductions in services to patients, appropriate and adequate access to patient care is threatened.

The study called for in HB 5251 will provide a clear picture of the impact on patient access as well as recommendations for potential improvements. We will be very interested in the findings and recommendations of the report and urge passage of the bill.

*The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard.*

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