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

Linda Kowalski, Executive Director, Radiological Society of Connecticut  
Testimony Before The Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
House Bill 5233, *An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Screenings.*  
March 3, 2016

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson and esteemed members of the committee:

My name is Linda Kowalski. I am President of The Kowalski Group, LLC, and Executive Director and lead lobbyist for the Radiological Society of Connecticut, Connecticut chapter of the American College of Radiology, ACR. The Radiological Society of Connecticut is the professional association of Radiologists in the State of Connecticut. On behalf of our 520 members, we would like to be on the record to support of House Bill 5233, *An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Screenings.*

The bill would add breast tomosynthesis to tests that are available to women who need a mammogram.

At the outset, we would note that Medicare covers breast tomosynthesis. Connecticut's Department of Social Services decided to do likewise late last year in the Medicaid program. In essence, government payors are now covering the test—what is missing is complete coverage by state regulated insurance plans in Connecticut.

The American College of Radiology (ACR) has had extensive study of the literature relating to breast tomosynthesis and, in 2014, adopted a policy paper in support of its use. Breast tomosynthesis has shown to have higher cancer detection rates and fewer patient recalls for additional testing. The medical community has long sought ways to improve breast cancer screening accuracy. Better sensitivity will likely translate into more lives saved while lower recall rates result in fewer patients who may experience short-term anxiety awaiting test results.

To facilitate large scale outcome data collection, the technology must be widely available. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is covering beneficiaries for breast tomosynthesis, and they have urged private payers to do the same.

At this point, breast tomosynthesis is no longer investigational. The test has been shown to improve key screening parameters compared to digital mammography. For this reason, the Radiological Society of Connecticut supports House Bill 5233, since we believe it will lead to greater coverage of breast tomosynthesis by insurance plans in the state.