



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

THEMIS KLARIDES
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5233
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 3, 2016

Chairmen Crisco and Megna, Ranking Members Kelly and Sampson, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill 5233, An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Tomosynthesis for Breast Cancer Screenings.**

Connecticut has consistently been a leader in providing excellent insurance coverage for breast cancer screenings for women. I am proud of the steps we have taken in this state to provide women with the resources necessary for the early detection of breast cancer. Early detection is crucial to the battle against breast cancer as early detection provides for a far greater likelihood of survival. If caught early, women with breast cancer can go on to lead full and healthy lives after treatment. This legislation is another step forward in making comprehensive breast cancer screenings available to all women in Connecticut.

House Bill 5233 enhances the opportunity for the early detection of breast cancer by adding tomosynthesis to the available breast cancer screening methods that must be covered by insurance. This bill does not require medical providers use tomosynthesis to screen for breast cancer, but it affords providers with the option to use tomosynthesis screening with the knowledge that such screening will be covered by a patient's insurance. Tomosynthesis is an FDA approved method of mammography that produces three dimensional images of the breast. These images can provide clearer and more accurate views of the breast allowing doctors to more effectively pinpoint the location, size and shape of any abnormalities. Along with mammography, MRIs and ultrasound, tomosynthesis is a powerful tool in the fight against breast cancer.

Second only to a cure, early detection is one of the best steps we can take against breast cancer. Therefore, I urge the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to pass House Bill 5233 to provide health insurance coverage for tomosynthesis.

Thank you for your consideration.