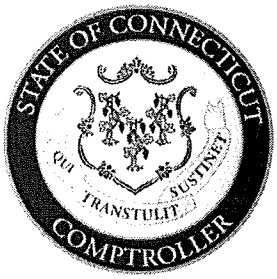
KEVIN LEMBO
STATE COMPTROLLER

MARTHA CARLSON
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
March 1, 2018

Concerning
H.B. 5208: An Act Concerning Mammograms, Breast Ultrasounds and Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Breasts

Good afternoon Senator Larson, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson, and Members of the Insurance Committee:

Thank you for raising this legislation and for the opportunity to support a measure to improve access to potentially life-saving breast cancer screenings.

It is already proven that women are far more likely to obtain necessary mammograms or breast ultrasounds when copayments, deductibles or other cost sharing is eliminated.

No person should be forced to choose between obtaining a breast cancer screening or other immediate living costs such as groceries or utilities.

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports, women are far more likely to utilize such preventive services, including birth control and mammograms when cost-sharing – such as deductibles, co-insurance, copayments or other financial obstacles – are removed.

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers in women. Furthermore, it is the most common cause of cancer death among Hispanic women and the second most common cause of death from cancer among white, black and Asian-Pacific Islander women, according to the CDC.

Early detection is so essential because breast cancer, like many illnesses, is far easier to treat when identified earlier, but also because many women who have breast cancer experience no symptoms at all, according to the American Cancer Society.

Once again, I thank you for your attention to this important issue and I urge your support.

Thank you for your time.