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August 24, 2023

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
United States House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
United States House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S.2245/H.R.4534, the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2023

Dear Senators Rubio and Feinstein and Representatives Boyle and Fitzpatrick,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for reintroducing S.2245/H.R.4534, the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2023. This important legislation will accelerate research and investigate possible ways to decrease the number of women affected by lung cancer, a cause our organization is deeply committed to.

Founded in 1964, STS is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,900 surgeons, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

STS commends you for seeking to accelerate the development of a national public education campaign on the importance of early detection of lung cancer in women. As you know, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women, and women face disparate rates of lung cancer compared to men. This gender difference is not well understood yet and is particularly stark among non-smokers: approximately two-thirds of non-smokers who are diagnosed with lung cancer are women. It is critical that we gain a solid understanding of women's access to and knowledge of preventive services, since covered services like low-dose computed tomography screenings have proven effective. Your legislation is an important step towards utilizing all available data and best practices to save lives.

STS remains fully committed to improving the quality, safety, and efficiency of care for all patients. Research into and public awareness of lung cancer in women will benefit patients across the United States. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Please contact Molly Peltzman, Associate Director of Health Policy at mpeltzman@sts.org, or Haley Brown, Senior Manager of Political Affairs and Advocacy at hbrown@sts.org, should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas E. MacGillivray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Thomas E. MacGillivray, MD
President