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July 3, 2019

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Congressman Brendan Boyle
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Congressman John Rutherford
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

**Re: The Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act
(H.R. 2222/S.1107)**

Dear Senators Rubio and Feinstein and Representatives Boyle, Bonamici, Dingell, Fitzpatrick, and Rutherford,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I am pleased to write in support of your bipartisan legislation, The Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act, which will accelerate research and investigate possible ways to decrease the number of women affected by lung cancer.

Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,600 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care 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. The mission of the Society is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.

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 and is particularly

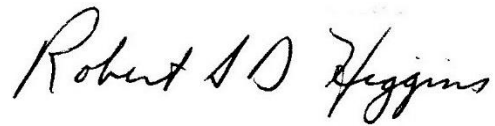
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stark among non-smokers: approximately two-thirds of non-smokers who are diagnosed with lung cancer are women. It is critical that we gain a solid understanding of women's access to and knowledge of preventive services, since covered services like 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. If you have any questions, please contact STS Director of Government Relations, Courtney Yohe at 202-787-1222 or cyohe@sts.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S.D. Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert S.D. Higgins, MD
President