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COMPTROLLER LEMBO ANNOUNCES 99 PERCENT COMPLIANCE IN HEALTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Comptroller Kevin Lembo today announced the overwhelming majority of participants in the Health Enhancement Program (HEP) -- more than 99 percent -- have complied with preventative screening requirements that will likely save the state significant long-term dollars, as well as lives.

Approximately 53,000 state employees and new retirees are enrolled in HEP. The program provides financial benefits, including reduced premium share and waived deductible, in exchange for employees and dependents obtaining regular age-appropriate screenings.

HEP is a new program designed to reduce emergency room visits and complications associated with chronic conditions (such as diabetes and heart disease) by emphasizing preventative care. The program was established through an agreement between Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's administration and the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition.

"This Health Enhancement Program compliance blew away all expectations -- and should be a strong signal about the potential long-term financial and health benefits to the state," Lembo said. "My office is already seeing preliminary signs that HEP may be helping to drive down unnecessary emergency room visits and other costly acute care.

"While the rest of the country is experiencing health care cost increases of more than 8 percent -- twice the general rate of inflation -- Connecticut, as an employer, will see no increase this year. This is not a coincidence -- but a direct result of health care innovations, including the Health Enhancement Program, that are moving the cost needle

on health care."

HEP participants were required to schedule or complete their screenings by the end of May, or else risk being deemed temporarily ineligible for the HEP financial benefits. More than 99 percent of the 53,000 employees and new retirees enrolled have met the requirements.

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