



As a member of the Governor's Task Force on Clinical Breast Exams I urge your favorable action on SB 717. The Act requires health professional training programs to teach a clinical breast exam technique.

In my work as the Survivor Programs Manager for Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, Oregon & SW Washington Affiliate, I am in regular contact with scores of Oregon women who are alive today because they received a high quality clinical breast examination. To save more lives more health care professionals should be trained in high quality clinical breast examination techniques. That is the worthy goal of SB 717.

The reason for Governor Kitzhaber's appointed Task Force was to recommend to the Legislature a training program for health care professionals in how to perform a high quality clinical breast exam (CBE) on their patients to detect breast disease sooner or to prevent a delayed breast cancer diagnosis.

Breast cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in American women. Oregon has some of the highest breast cancer rates in the country. Each week in Oregon an estimated 64 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. An estimated 9 women will die from this disease every week in Oregon, but survival rates will only improve if more women receive high quality clinical breast examinations that detect cancer earlier.

A health care professional training program should include required curriculum training on the standardized clinical breast examination (CBE) protocol using the highly regarded vertical strip, three finger pressure method. This approach will provide a standard of care in the examination technique that reduces the risk of a delay in the diagnosis of breast cancer.

Please pass SB 717. Early Detection Saves Lives!

Respectfully submitted,  
Antoinette M. Mountain  
Survivor Programs Manager  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure®  
Oregon & SW Washington Affiliate  
35 Year Breast Cancer Survivor