

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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April 1, 2013

To: Chair Monnes-Anderson, Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services

From: Jason Parks, Government Relations Director, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

RE: Support of Senate Bill 717

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society (the "Society"). The Society is a nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. The American Cancer Society is the largest voluntary health organization in the United States.

ACS CAN supports Senate Bill 717 and its requirement that health care professional training curriculum include the standardized clinical breast examination (CBE) protocol which uses the "vertical strip, three-pressure method".

There is evidence that this particular method, which the Society recommends for use during self-breast exams, is the most effective pattern for covering the entire breast without missing any breast tissue. Requiring those who administer CBE's to be trained in the most proven screening and early detection techniques available is good policy.

The CBE is also a good time for women who don't know how to examine their breasts to learn the right way to do it from their health care professionals. Asking a doctor or nurse for instructions on the proper technique is one of the ways the Society recommends women learn to administer self-breast examinations. We want to ensure women are being taught the best, most effective methods.

ACS CAN estimates that 3,310 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year in Oregon and 490 will die from the disease. By training our current and future health professionals in related fields with evidence-based, effective techniques, we can reduce those numbers.

Please join us in supporting Senate Bill 717.