



February 14, 2013

Office of the President

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Joseph E. Robertson, Jr., M.D., M.B.A.
President

Dear Members of the Health Care and Human Services Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) to support SB 362, which will provide funding for the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) to increase the number of women who have access to screening for breast and cervical cancer.

The Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program is administered by the Oregon Health Authority and funded by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure affiliate for Oregon and SW Washington. To be eligible for screening through the BCCP, a woman must be 40-64 years old and be at less than 250% of the poverty level. The number of women in Oregon needing BCCP services is estimated at 77,000, but the current funding from CDC and Komen can provide services to approximately 5,200 women.

Oregon and Washington have two of the highest incident rates of breast cancer in the nation. The five year survival rate for an early diagnosis is 98 percent, but the later a cancer is diagnosed, the harder and more expensive it is to treat. Uninsured women are 2.4 times more likely to receive a late stage cancer diagnosis and are therefore more likely to die from the disease than women with insurance. Unfortunately, while 88 percent of states provide some type of funding for BCCP programs, Oregon at present does not.

This is an important issue of access and equity. I encourage your support.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe E Robertson".

Joseph E. Robertson, M.D.
President