

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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April 2, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
C/O Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing SB 5526 and inviting testimony from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). ACS CAN is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. We support evidence based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

ACS CAN supports the \$970,000 in the Governor's recommended budget for the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and a modest increase of 5% (\$48,500) due to both the cost of inflation and the need for broader program support for increased outreach services to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women, especially women of underserved populations.

OHA's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program provides breast and cervical cancer screening services, including free Pap tests and mammograms to women aged 40 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured and have income below 250% of the federal poverty line. From 2008 – 2013, over 25,000 Oregon women were served by the program and the program detected 292 breast cancers and 228 cervical cancers. As you can see, the program works.

While the Affordable Care Act has provided thousands of low-income women greater access to preventative cancer screenings and treatment; gaps will still remain for women who remain uninsured or are underinsured. It is estimated that over 63,909 Oregon women will continue to lack access to cervical cancer screenings, and 25,529 women will lack access to breast cancer screenings in 2015 and beyond.

In closing, maintaining existing funding and providing a modest increase for greater outreach and education services will preserve a critical safety net for thousands of Oregon women, who continue to lack access to essential screening services. Please support the existing funding level with a modest increase to OHA's Breast and Cervical Cancer Program for early detection services for low-income and other medically underserved women.

Best regards,

Troy Rayburn, Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Great West Region