

April 11, 2017

The Honorable Chair Monnes Anderson  
Chair, Senate Health Care Committee  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee,

The Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance, a group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well-being of women, supports HB 2660.

In 1998, Congress passed the Women's Health Care Rights Act, which ensures that women who have insurance coverage for breast cancer treatment will be covered for breast reconstruction post-mastectomy. However, published studies report that 70% of women who are eligible for this are not informed of their care options, especially women of color, of a lower socioeconomic class, and older patients.

The health benefits for women who know their options and receive breast reconstruction surgery post-mastectomy are astonishing. Breast cancer treatment is a grueling process with radiation, chemotherapy and surgery. Studies have shown that women who have opted for breast reconstruction have more quickly healed mentally, physical, emotionally.

This is a simple bill that directs DCBS and OHA to provide links to digital educational materials from non-profit organizations on their individual websites. This will provide one more avenue for breast cancer patients to receive information they need in order to fully understand the options that are available to them. We urge your support for HB 2660, as we believe this is a sound public policy decision.

Sincerely,

The OWHWA Co-Chairs:

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward



Representative Karin Power



Senator Kathleen Taylor



Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer

