



March 25, 2019

Senator Beyer, Representative Nosse, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services –

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) would like to express our support of funding the Oregon ScreenWise program at \$1.3 million, the level proposed by ACS CAN Susan G. Komen Oregon & SW Washington. This budget request accounts for an additional \$500,000 above the program request from the Oregon Health Authority for \$822k. The additional budget allocation requested by ACS CAN and our partners will provide sufficient programmatic funding to reinstate potentially life-saving breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic exams to women 40 and over.

This critical safety net screening program provides life-saving screenings and diagnostic service to low-income uninsured and underinsured women who do not qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. ScreenWise is funded, federally, by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and, locally, by the State of Oregon General Fund.

Due to unforeseen reductions in federal and state funding, the ScreenWise program established cost-containment strategies which included limiting breast and cervical cancer screening services to women over 50, with diagnostic services to women over 21. By allocating \$1.3 million for the Screenwise program, this committee will reinstate the screening program as intended. Without the budget increase, our state could potentially leave high-risk women under 50 without access to breast and cervical cancer screening services that could save their lives.

We know that early detection saves lives and given the uncertainty around Federal health care legislation, the Screenwise program has never been more important. For these reasons, we would like to see the Oregon ScreenWise program funded at \$1.3 million for the 2019-2021 biennium, and we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,
Christopher Friend
Oregon Government Relations Director

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