



## 2021 Legislative and Public Policy Priorities

### Legislative Priorities

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#### **PRIORITY#1:**

#### **\$150 Million for the Department of Defense (DOD) Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) for FY2022:**

As a result of NBCC's grassroots advocacy, the DOD BCRP was created in 1992 to eradicate breast cancer by funding innovative, high-impact research through a partnership of scientists and consumers. The DOD BCRP is widely viewed as an innovative, unique and efficient medical research model which has proven to be accountable to the public and has produced extraordinary results. NBCC seeks continued level funding.

#### **PRIORITY#2:**

**Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act:** A bill to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare and the five-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits for eligible individuals with Metastatic Breast Cancer. This legislation would waive all waiting periods for Medicare and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits based on disability for individuals with metastatic breast cancer.

#### **PRIORITY#3:**

**Preservation of the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program:** Congress enacted the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act in 2000 after years of NBCC grassroots lobbying and influence. NBCC remains committed to ensuring all women and men screened and diagnosed with breast cancer have access to the treatment they need.

### Public Policy Priorities

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#### **PRIORITY#1:**

**Guaranteed Access to Quality Care for All:** Ensuring access to quality evidence-based health care has been a top priority of NBCC for many years. NBCC supports health care access initiatives that expand access to Medicare while also offering a private insurance option, automatically enroll individuals who do not have access to other coverage, and provide guaranteed benefits including primary and preventive care, hospital services, and prescription drug coverage. NBCC believes that there must be shared financial responsibility and that no individual should be denied coverage due to an inability to pay.

#### **PRIORITY#2:**

**Access to Affordable and Effective Therapies:** NBCC supports policies that address systemic deficiencies in the law, regulation, and science policy that result in the approval of drugs that do not significantly extend or save lives and whose prices are not based on value or effectiveness.

#### **PRIORITY#3:**

**Ensure the Participation of Educated Patient Advocates in Science Research and All Levels of Health Care Decision Making:** NBCC continues to work to ensure that educated patient advocates who represent a constituency have a meaningful seat at the table in all levels of health care decision making, which affects their lives.

Patient advocates must:

- Have a patient-led, patient-centered organization with a patient constituency to which they are responsible and accountable;
- Have been personally affected by disease; and
- Be knowledgeable, trained, prepared and confident in their ability to participate in the decision-making process of science and medicine.