



July 1, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations, join the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) in urging you to enact the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (S. 1312/H.R. 3183), sponsored by Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Joni Ernst (R-IA), and Representatives Kathy Castor (D-FL) and John Katko (R-NY). Passage of this critical legislation would ensure eligible individuals with metastatic breast cancer access to the support and medical care they need.

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is cancer that has spread from the breast to the bones, lungs, or other parts of the body. As you may know, 90% of breast cancer deaths are as a result of metastatic disease. The average life expectancy of an individual with MBC is 3 years. While there are treatments that may extend the lives of individuals with MBC, there is no cure.

Under current law, if an individual is found to be disabled for the purposes of Medicare and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), they must wait 24 months for Medicare coverage and 5 months to receive SSDI benefits. During this arbitrary waiting period, individuals with MBC face incredible hardships in supporting themselves and their families and receiving the appropriate medical care that they desperately need. Under current law, individuals with MBC may never receive the SSDI and Medicare benefits for which they are eligible as result of these onerous waiting periods.

The Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act would waive the 5-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance and the 24-month waiting period for Medicare benefits for individuals with MBC who are determined to be eligible under the current programs. There is broad bipartisan support for this bill, and thousands of individuals from across the country are asking their Senators and Representatives to enact this legislation as soon as possible. For individuals with MBC, time is of the essence. There is no reason not to act now on this bill.

As of July 1, 2021:

Cedar Valley Cancer Committee: Beyond Pink TEAM (IA)
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation (TX)
New Hampshire Breast Cancer Coalition (NH)



NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION

Breast Cancer Care and Research Fund (CA)
Annie Appleseed Project (FL)
CARE Advocates Network (MA)
Dr. Susan Love Research Project (CT)
Minnesota Breast Cancer Coalition (MN)
Upper Cape Women's Coalition (MA)
Oncology Nursing Society (MA)
Pink Aroostook - Caribou, Maine (ME)
American Association of Breast Care Professionals (TX)
Splash of Color Breast Cancer Support Group (IA)
Women of Color Breast Cancer Survivors' Support Project (CA)
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VA)
Michigan Breast Cancer Coalition (MI)
Breast Cancer Over Time (CA)
Ann's Place (CT)
Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition (WI)
The Pink Table Talk (WI)
Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition (NY)