**Sample Letter to the Editor**

Date

LTE: check newspaper website for how to address letters to the editor

Name of Newspaper

City of Publication

Dear Editor:

As a breast cancer advocate, I have seen first-hand how devastating breast cancer can be. What is truly terrifying is that in 2022 about 43,250 women and 500 men will die from breast cancer in the United States. 90 percent of breast cancer deaths are because of metastatic disease.

Metastatic breast cancer is cancer that has spread from the breast to the bones, lungs, or other distant parts of the body. There is no cure. The average life expectancy of an individual with metastatic breast cancer is 3 years.

There are bills in the House and Senate, H.R. 3183 and S. 1312, The Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act, that go a long way to assure that women and men living with metastatic breast cancer have access to the support and medical care they need. This important legislation would provide individuals with metastatic breast cancer who already qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) immediate access to support and medical care. Under current law, these individuals must wait five months for SSDI and 24 months for Medicare benefits to take effect.

We need our representatives in Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 3183 and S. 1312, ensuring that individuals like Ellen, a 47-year-old nurse who died waiting for her Medicare benefits to begin, have access to quality health care that they are already qualified to receive. And we need them to help get these bills passed. That would go a long way in helping to eliminate barriers to medical care that women and men with metastatic breast cancer may not live long enough to receive.

Your Name

Address

Phone:

E-mail: