

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Dear Colleague,

We urge you to become a cosponsor of S. 663, [the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act](#). This legislation would waive all waiting periods for Medicare and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for eligible individuals suffering from metastatic breast cancer. This legislation received support from thousands of patient advocates across the country, with a full list of supporting organizations below.

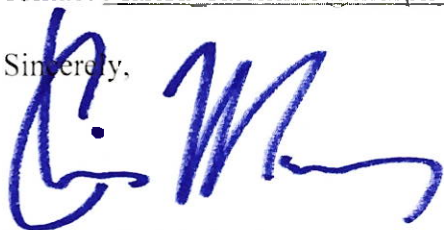
This year, about 43,250 women and 530 men will die of breast cancer. The vast majority of breast cancer deaths are due to metastatic breast cancer, which is cancer that has spread from the breast to the bones, lungs, or other distant parts of the body. There is no cure – and under current law, most people diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer do not live long enough to receive the benefits they would qualify for due to waiting periods. Intensive, immediate treatment can be a difference-maker in disease progression and quality of life, but instead many with metastatic breast cancer face costly medical expenses and difficult choices like delaying necessary treatment.

There are federal precedents for eliminating waiting periods for certain individuals who qualify for SSDI and Medicare benefits based on their disability. In 1978, Congress eliminated Medicare waiting periods for individuals with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) receiving home dialysis treatments.¹ In 2001, Congress passed legislation to add Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) as a qualifying condition for automatic Medicare coverage, eliminating the 24 month waiting period.² Most recently, in 2020 Congress passed legislation to eliminate the five-month waiting period for individuals who qualify for SSDI based on their disability.³

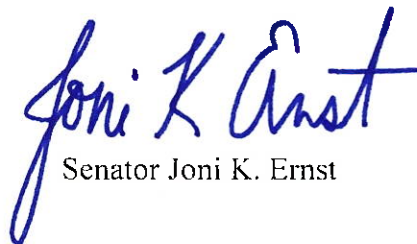
While we must do more to encourage new treatments and cures, increase access to medical care, reduce health disparities, and raise awareness for patients with MBC, eliminating onerous waiting periods for SSDI and Medicare is a meaningful step for women and their families. The average life expectancy for women diagnosed with MBC is only three years; we must eliminate barriers that could delay critically necessary treatment.

If you would like to request additional information or add your boss as a cosponsor, please contact Marisa_salemme@murphy.senate.gov or Katie_wood@ernst.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Senator Chris Murphy



Senator Joni K. Ernst

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK234191/>
2. <https://secure.ssa.gov/POMS.NSI.Lnx.0411036001>
3. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/08/27/2021-18435-removing-the-waiting-period-for-entitlement-to-social-security-disability-insurance-benefits-for>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The following organizations Support the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act:

ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis
Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program
African American Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc.
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation
American Association of Breast Care Professionals
American Association on Health and Disability
Annie Appleseed Project
Ann's Place
Black Women's Health Imperative
Breast Cancer Angels
Breast Cancer Care & Research Fund
Breast Cancer Coalition of Nevada
Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester
Breast Cancer Education Association
Breast Cancer Hawaii
Breast Cancer Over Time
Breast Cancer Research Advocacy Network
Breast Health Collaborative of Texas
Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes
Cancer Services of Eastern North Carolina
CARE Advocates Network
Cedar Valley Cancer Committee: Beyond Pink TEAM
Cedars Sinai Breast Center
Circle of Hope
Colorado Breast Cancer Coalition
Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
Don't be a Chump! Check for a Lump!
Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation
Florida Breast Cancer Foundation
Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Fund
Global Breast Care Initiative
Jack's Caregiver Coalition
Linda Creed Breast Cancer Organization
Living Beyond Breast Cancer
Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance
Maine Breast Cancer Coalition
Male Breast Cancer Coalition
Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance
Metastatic Breast Cancer Network
Michigan Breast Cancer Coalition
Minnesota Breast Cancer Coalition
National Breast Cancer Coalition

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Neuva Vida
New Hampshire Breast Cancer Coalition
Oncology Nursing Society
Pink Aroostook
Reconstruction of A Survivor
Saving Pennies 4 A Cure
SHARE
Sisters R Us Circle of Survivors
Splash of Color Breast Cancer Support Group
St. Louis Breast Cancer Coalition
Strategic Facilities Planning
Susan G. Komen Minnesota
Think Beyond Pink
Triage Cancer
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation
Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition
WNY Ovarian Cancer Project, Inc.
Young Survival Coalition
Zero Breast Cancer