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letter to the editor

Scott, Rubio urged to support Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act

Women's access to health care will be front of mind for Florida voters in November. Before they face the ballot box, our representatives in Washington have an important opportunity to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Floridians impacted by breast cancer.

This year, an estimated 42,780 people in the US will die of breast cancer. Ninety percent of these deaths are because of metastatic disease: cancer that has spread. There is no cure.

I am a breast cancer survivor. Individuals with metastatic breast cancer and cannot work are entitled to Medicare coverage and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); however, they endure arbitrary waiting periods. With an average life expectancy of only three years, there is no time to waste.

That's why I call on our members of Congress to support the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (H.R. 549, S. 663). This bill would waive the waiting periods and provide immediate access to care for those who qualify.

The legislation has strong bipartisan support, including 11 Florida House members from both parties, but Sens. Rick Scott and Marco Rubio have yet to sign on. I encourage them to do so immediately.

Judy Perkins, Lehigh Acres, Florida, Florida Advocate, National Breast Cancer Coalition

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