



Chairman Dolan and Members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the inclusion of expanded access to breast and cervical cancer treatment services in HB 110.

Susan G. Komen is the world's leading nonprofit breast cancer organization representing the millions of women and men who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, including the 10,450 women who will be diagnosed and 1,720 who will die from the disease this year alone in Ohio. We have a comprehensive 360-degree approach to fighting this disease across all fronts—we advocate for patients, drive research breakthroughs, improve access to high-quality care, offer direct patient support and empower people with trustworthy information. Komen advocates for all women to have access to the tools and resources necessary to save their lives. We believe strongly that ensuring access to affordable, high-quality care for all patients increases the likelihood that they will have the ability to detect, diagnose and treat their breast cancer early - potentially saving their lives.

In Ohio, only patients screened by a Breast and Cervical Cancer Project provider, can receive treatment in the corresponding Breast and Cervical Cancer Medicaid Treatment Program. Unfortunately, if a woman, walks through the "wrong door" to a provider not participating in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, they most likely will be forced to find alternatives to pay for the cost of their treatment, or simply forego treatment entirely. The financial burden of cancer should not be an additional concern for cancer patients. A woman, that would otherwise be eligible for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project services, should not be denied access to life-saving treatment, simply because she walked through the "wrong door."

The requirements outlined open the eligibility of the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program to allow all eligible women access to vital breast and cervical cancer treatment services, regardless of where they were initially screened.

Komen thanks you for your leadership and for your consideration and inclusion of expanded access to breast and cervical cancer treatment services in HB 110. We respectfully urge your support to ensure all eligible women have access to these life-saving services.

Sincerely,  
Dana Carter  
Regional Manager State Policy & Advocacy, North Central