

Hello my name is Alison Goldstein. In 2018 my mother Marla Goldstein was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. I was with her when she received the diagnosis and we both looked at each other and thought “triple negative that must be good” but the doctor gave us a crash course on what it meant to have this type of breast cancer. It was explained to us that this type of breast cancer is the more aggressive, harder to treat, most likely to recur within 3 years and the most common subtype in African American and Ashkenazi Jewish women.

Treatment for my mother started right away and we were both sent to go through genetic testing where we learned that my mother was a carrier of a BRACA mutation. Breast cancers related to BRACA mutations are also more likely to be triple negative. While we were incredibly grateful that the mutation was not passed down to myself or my sister it was hard not to think about the what if’s...what if we had known about triple negative breast cancer and genetic testing sooner... then my mom could have been given the opportunity to choose preventative surgery to reduce her risk.

My mother lost her battle in 2021 and up until her passing she was an advocate for more awareness and research needed against this fast-spreading breast cancer. Now it is up to me to ensure that her voice continues to be heard. Designating the month of March as Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness in the state of Ohio will help bring the attention that is needed to this type of breast cancer and spark the necessary conversations for progress in research.

I am sincerely appreciative of Representative Humphrey’s efforts, and I hope that Triple Negative Breast Cancer awareness month becomes a reality in the state of Ohio. Thank you for your time.