

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2015

Dear Colleague,

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States, accounting for nearly one out of every four deaths. This year, almost 590,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer – more than 1,600 people each day. In the United States, we spend nearly \$87 billion annually on direct medical costs for cancer treatment, and this number is expected to grow in the next 15 years as the number of adults age 65 and older doubles.

We know that 50 percent of cancer deaths in our country are preventable. Much of the suffering and death resulting from cancer, as well as the substantial cost associated with treating advanced disease, could be prevented or reduced through evidence-based prevention and screening.

Established by Congress in 1990, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) provides access to breast and cervical cancer screening services to underserved women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 5 U.S. territories, and 11 tribes. To date, the NBCCEDP has provided nearly 12 million screening exams to more than 4.7 million women, detecting more than 66,198 breast cancers and 3,625 invasive cervical cancers. This critically important program also provides much-needed resources for evidence-based education and outreach, research, and cancer monitoring and surveillance.

The NBCCEDP is currently funded in 31 states through the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). For example, the PPHF has supported the following cancer screening activities through the NBCCEDP:


- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, the PPHF provided \$4.3 million in funding through the NBCCEDP for Maryland's Breast and Cervical Cancer program, which provides free pap tests to women aged 40 to 64 and mammograms to women aged 40 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured, and have income below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. From 2007-2012, Maryland's program detected 271 invasive breast cancers and 418 cervical cancers and precancerous lesions.
- In FY 2014, Texas received \$6.2 million in PPHF funding through the NBCCEDP. Texas's Breast and Cervical Cancer program provides free pap tests to

women aged 21 to 64 and mammograms to women aged 40 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured, and have income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. From 2007-2012, Texas's program detected 785 invasive breast cancers and 2,344 cervical cancers and precancerous lesions.

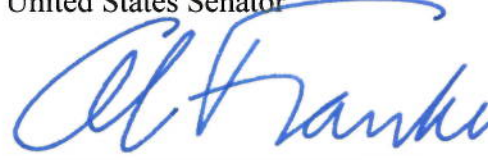
- Tennessee also received \$1 million in PPHF funding through the NBCCEDP in FY 2014. Tennessee's Breast and Cervical Cancer program provides free pap tests to women aged 40 to 64 and mammograms to women aged 50 to 64 who are uninsured or underinsured, and have income below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. From 2007-2012, Tennessee's program detected 474 invasive breast cancers and 680 cervical cancers and precancerous lesions.


In order to continue these life-saving screening programs, the President has proposed fully funding the NBCCEDP in FY 2016 through the PPHF. In addition to providing funding for cancer screenings through the NBCCEDP, the PPHF supports community-based prevention programs addressing the most common risk factors for cancer and other chronic illnesses – tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. Together, these investments will help reduce the burden of chronic disease and enable Americans to live longer, healthier lives. Please join us in supporting the PPHF and the important investments it is making in communities across the nation.

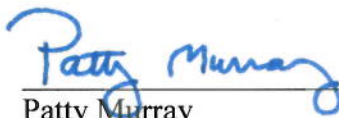
Sincerely,

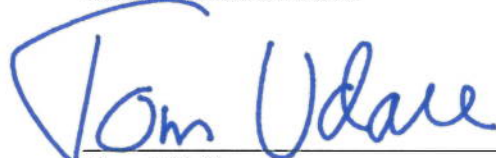
  
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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

  
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

  
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Al Franken  
United States Senator

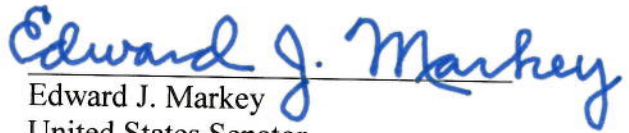
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

  
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Patty Murray  
United States Senator

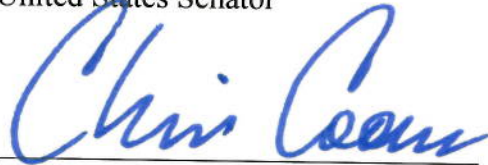
  
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Tom Udall  
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



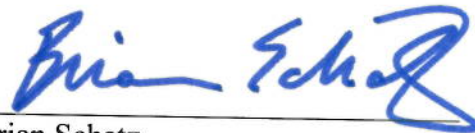
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator