



## **Screening for Communities to Receive Early and Equitable Needed Services (SCREENS) for Cancer Act (H.R. 8185/S. 4440)** Reauthorize the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state departments of health, provides potentially lifesaving breast cancer screening and diagnostic services to women who are low-income, uninsured and underinsured who do not qualify for Medicaid. NBCCEDP has a proven record of cancer detection and provides public education, outreach, patient navigation and care coordination to increase breast cancer screening rates and reach underserved populations.

### **Importance of Screening and Early Detection**

An estimated 290,560 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer and nearly 44,000 will die from the disease in 2022 alone. At the beginning of the pandemic, screenings declined by over 80% and recent National Cancer Institute (NCI) studies have estimated that pandemic-related disruptions or delays in care and screening are expected to result in an excess of 2,500 breast cancer deaths by 2030.

The CDC highlighted a decline in cancer screening among people from racial and ethnic minority groups with lower incomes when their access to medical services decreased at the beginning of the pandemic. The NBCCEDP supports interventions which help address racial inequities in breast cancer screening and diagnosis and places special emphasis on those who are geographically or culturally isolated.

Without access to early detection programs, many people who are uninsured are forced to delay or forgo screenings, which leads to later-stage breast cancer diagnoses. This delay can mean that a person may not seek care until the cancer has spread, making it up to five times more expensive and harder to treat.

### **About NBCCEDP Reauthorization**

Since 1991, NBCCEDP has served more than 5.9 million women, detecting nearly 74,000 breast cancers and over 23,000 premalignant breast lesions. Last reauthorized in 2007, NBCCEDP has a legacy of reaching underserved populations and providing high-quality care, giving people across the country access to needed breast health services.

Many people still face substantial barriers to cancer screenings like geographic isolation, limited health literacy, lack of provider recommendation, inconvenient times to access services and language barriers.

This legislation would provide greater flexibility to NBCCEDP grantees, allowing for expansion of services for high-risk individuals, a greater emphasis on implementing innovative evidence-based interventions and proactive outreach to underserved communities through media, peer educators and patient navigators.

At current funding levels, NBCCEDP serves only 15% of the estimated number of eligible women for breast cancer services. Increased funding authorization is needed to allow Congress greater authority to support this vital safety net program.

**Please preserve and expand access to critical breast and cervical cancer safety-net services by cosponsoring H.R. 8185/S. 4440, which will reauthorize the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for five years.**