

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY OF SENATE BILL 433 WITH GOVERNOR KITZHABER CLOSES GAP IN OREGON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, GIVES UNINSURED WOMEN A FIGHTING CHANCE**

**Portland, Oregon, August 5, 2011** - Imagine the devastation as an uninsured woman diagnosed with breast cancer finds out she is ineligible to access life-saving treatment. The devastation deepens when she finds she's ineligible only because she was diagnosed outside of the limited, Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer provider network.

This story of terrible injustice has become all too familiar to the Oregon and SW Washington Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a trusted local resource for people whose lives have been touched by breast cancer.

It has driven Komen to be the non-profit leader in the breast cancer movement, pushing for two legislative sessions to correct this terrible inequity. Senate Bill 433 will do just that; providing access for eligible women to the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program for life-saving treatment, even if they are diagnosed through a non-OBCCP provider.

Today Komen Oregon, together with fellow advocates and community partners, celebrated at the Legacy Good Samaritan Healing Garden as Governor John Kitzhaber signed the bill into law. Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland), chief sponsor of the bill and a breast cancer survivor, served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event.

Senator Rosenbaum was joined by Representatives Tina Kotek (D-North/NE Portland), Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and Carolyn Tomei (D-Milwaukie), Co-Chair of the Oregon Women's Oregon Health and Wellness Alliance. All three legislators played key roles in the passage of the bill.

Before signing the bill Governor Kitzhaber spoke about Senate Bill 433's significance, stressing the importance of early detection and early treatment of cancer are being crucial to a patient's survival. Further the Governor noted that, thanks to SB 433, any low-income woman diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer who meets BCCP eligibility requirements will now be able to get the live-saving treatment she needs.

Senate Bill 433 represents the Affiliate's key priority for the current legislative session. The bill will expand Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (OBCCP) eligibility for women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, changing the law to serve all eligible women, regardless of where they receive their diagnosis. The bill passed unanimously both in the House and the Senate.

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### **About the Oregon and SW Washington Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure**

In 2011 Komen Oregon celebrates 20 years fighting to better the lives of those facing breast cancer in our community. We join more than two million breast cancer survivors and activists around the globe as part of the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer. Through events like the Komen Portland Race for the Cure and Eugene Race for the Cure, we have invested over \$12 million since 2002 in local breast health and breast cancer awareness projects in Oregon and SW Washington. Our presence in the local community helps raise awareness about the importance of early detection and breast cancer. We've made tremendous progress in the fight against breast cancer with mortality rates down 31 percent in 20 years - but until no one fears a diagnosis of breast cancer, we still have a lot of work to do. Join our promise by calling 503-552-9160 or visiting us online at [www.komenoregon.org](http://www.komenoregon.org).

### **About Susan G. Komen for the Cure**

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure® and the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure®, we have invested more than \$2 billion to fulfill our promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, breast health or breast cancer, visit [komen.org](http://komen.org) or call 1-877 GO KOMEN.