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## **KOMEN LEADS THE FIGHT TO SAVE LIVES**

### ***Bipartisan Sponsored Senate Bill 362 Would Provide Screening Access to Most Vulnerable Women***

**February 25, 2013 (Portland, OR)** – 77,000 women in the state of Oregon are low-income, and uninsured, and need programs like the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) to access breast health screenings. The BCCP, funded by Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the CDC, provides screenings to just 5,200 women annually – less than seven percent of the total number of women who qualify in Oregon. As such, Susan G. Komen for the Cure is leading the charge to expand access to screening by requesting that the Oregon Health Authority fund additional screenings by passing Senate Bill 362.

As Komen Oregon CEO Thomas Bruner states, “Uninsured women are 2.4 times more likely to receive a late stage cancer diagnosis than women with insurance, making them more likely to die from the disease. This fact is absolutely unacceptable, and as the global leaders of the breast cancer movement it is our job to change this reality for the most vulnerable women in our communities.”

Komen Oregon requested Senate Bill 362 to be added to the 2013 Regular Session of the 77<sup>th</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly, and convened legislators from both sides of the aisle to rally around this important cause. In an effort led by Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum, 48 Democratic and Republican Senators and Representatives have signed on in support of the bill. Rosenbaum states “I’m proud to partner with Komen to help save women’s lives across Oregon. 77,000 women in our state need help. We are reaching 5,000. We can do better.”

Representative Tim Freeman, R-Roseburg, one of the Chief co-sponsors of the bill states further, “Breast cancer affects women and families in all our communities, rural and urban, insured and uninsured. I support SB362 because it will increase access to breast health screenings that may save a woman’s life.”

On February 18<sup>th</sup> the bill passed unanimously through the Health Care and Human Services Committee, and has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee by order of the President of the Senate. Senate Bill 362 has been selected as a legislative priority by the Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance, a bipartisan group of legislators, health care personnel, state and local agency staff and citizen advocates dedicated to promoting the health, safety and economic well-being of women. Together with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, OWHWA champions Senate Bill 362 and will monitor its progress throughout the legislative session. The bill’s Chief Sponsors include Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Representative Carolyn Tomei, Representative Sara Gelser, and Representative Tim Freeman.

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

The Oregon and SW Washington Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure—along with those who generously support us with their talent, time and resources—is working 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. Since the Affiliate’s inception in 1991, Komen Oregon has invested over \$20 million in the local community to fund screening services, breast health education, rural transportation assistance, survivor support and breast cancer research. Join our promise by calling 503-552-9160 or visiting us online at [komenoregon.org](http://komenoregon.org).

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

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 \$2.2 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.

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