

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2019

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to cosponsor the **Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act**. This important legislation would provide eligible individuals who are suffering from metastatic breast cancer access to support and medical care potentially years sooner than under current law.

It is reported that 90% of breast cancer deaths are a result of metastatic disease. Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is cancer that has spread from the breast to the bones, lungs, or other parts of the body. Sadly, the average life expectancy of an individual with metastatic breast cancer is 3 years and therefore getting resources to that person must be addressed immediately. Unfortunately, under current law, if an individual is found to be disabled for the purposes of Medicare and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), she must wait 24 months to enroll in Medicare and wait 5 months to receive SSDI benefits. This waiting period places undue burden and stress on those needing care.

Our legislation simultaneously would waive the 5-month waiting period for SSDI and the 24-month waiting period for Medicare benefits for individuals with MBC who are determined to be eligible under the current programs. This would allow MBC patients immediate access to appropriate health care.

Please join us in becoming a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation to provide much needed relief for individuals with metastatic breast cancer and their families.

Sincerely,



Martha McSally  
U.S. Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
U.S. Senator