

Proposed funding cuts will put Alabama's Free Mammogram Program in danger!



A few facts about breast cancer in Alabama:

- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women. One woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes, and one woman will die of breast cancer every 13 minutes in the U.S.
- Over 2,750 women in Alabama will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and more than 730 of these women will lose their battle with the disease.**
- However, **when detected early, the survival rate for breast cancer is 95.5%** (and for cervical cancer, it's 92.2%). These figures drop dramatically when cancer is not found until later stages.
- African Americans have the highest death rate from breast cancer of any racial/ethnic group in the U.S.
- The major risk factors? Being women and getting older! Only 5 to 10 percent of breast cancers are due to heredity. Most women with breast cancer do not have a family history of breast cancer or any other known risk factors.
- There are nearly 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the U.S. – the largest group of cancer survivors in the country.

How can low-income, uninsured and underserved women have the opportunity for early detection?

- The Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (ABCCEDP) helps **low-income, uninsured and underserved women**, ages 40-64 (and women under 40* who have breast complaints) gain access to life-saving screening programs for early detection of breast and cervical cancer. Women eligible for the program receive a **free** pelvic exam, Pap smear, clinical breast exam and mammogram. If these tests come back with abnormal results, free diagnostic services, such as an ultrasound or biopsy, are provided. If there is a cancer diagnosis, women enrolled in this program are eligible for treatment through Medicaid.

For example: if your 50 year old sister/aunt/mother-in-law, does not have health insurance, makes less than \$21,000 per year in a single household and finds a lump in her breast, she would be eligible to enroll in the ABCCEDP and receive, without cost, all of the tests needed to diagnose and treat the cancer if found.

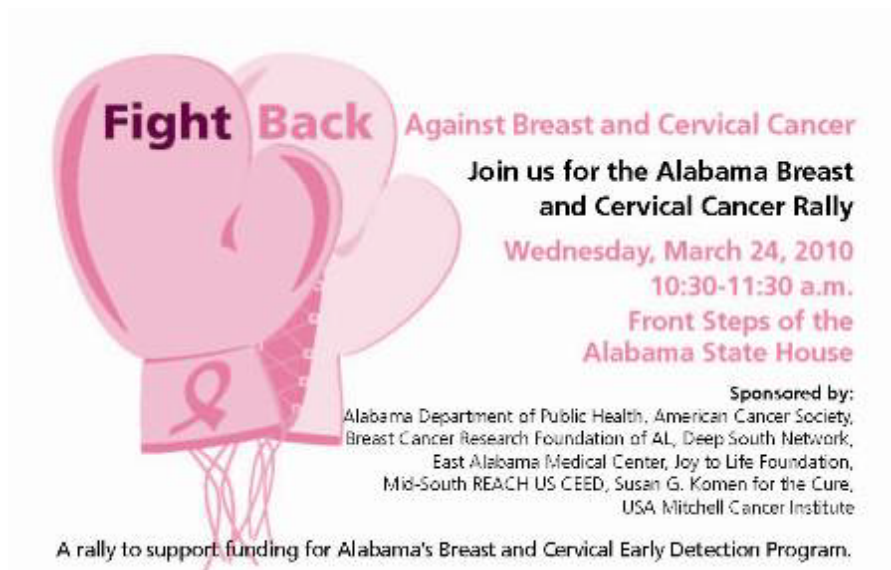
But these opportunities are in trouble because of possible cuts in state funding!

- Even though there are an estimated 84,000 women in Alabama who meet age (40-64), insurance and income eligibility requirements for the ABCCEDP, only 10,000 women are seen through the program, leaving 74,000 eligible women who are not being helped by the program.
- Proposed cuts in the state's ABCCEDP program funding will eliminate 2,000 women from the already low number served!

As Alabama faces difficult budget questions, we must make sure that these important cancer services remain intact to protect the health of those most in need.

Act now and restore funding for early detection services in Alabama! Do it for your mother, sister, wife or friend. Do it for yourself!

* Private funding expands the reach of the ABCCEDP to women 40-49 and women under 40 with a breast complaint. Currently, approximately \$462,000 in private funding is being provided: \$362,000 from Susan G. Komen for the Cure, North Central Alabama, \$70,000 from Joy to Life Foundation and \$ 50,000 from the National Breast Cancer Foundation.



FIGHT BACK against breast cancer by participating in a rally to support funding for the Alabama Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program (ABCCEDP) Wednesday March 24 at the Alabama State House in Montgomery, AL.

Join Susan G, Komen for the Cure, Deep South Network, ACS and other groups as we rally on the front steps of the State House for the return of life-saving funding for breast and cervical cancer screening to the State Budget.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure has chartered a bus to provide transportation to the Rally! The trip is **FREE OF CHARGE** and we will provide snacks and drinks on the bus. The bus will leave at 8:00 am from the Hoover Galleria (Belk entrance) and will return at approximately 1:30pm.

Seats are limited, so RSVP to komen@cancer.org or 205.930.8886 by Wednesday, March 17 and make sure to include your cell phone number. We will then confirm your spot on the bus and provide you with further details.

Don't miss this opportunity to express what is important to you and help save lives!

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