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St. Charles Health System
2500 NE Neff Road
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Dear Senator Beyer, Representative Nosse, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services –

On behalf of St. Charles Health System, we would like to show our support of funding the Oregon ScreenWise (Breast and Cervical Cancer) Program at \$1.3 million, the level proposed by Susan G. Komen Oregon & SW Washington and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. The Oregon ScreenWise program provides much-needed breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic exams to uninsured and underserved women.

ScreenWise strengthens the network of care in prevention, screening, diagnostic services and treatment for patients in Oregon and especially within Central Oregon. St. Charles Health System serves three different counties within Central Oregon: Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson County. The women within these counties have access to a valuable program that creates easier access to life saving screening, education and reduces barriers to their care and treatment. Without ScreenWise many of these women would potentially go undiagnosed until late stage diagnosis.

St. Charles Health System has walked along the side of many women that have been served by the ScreenWise Program. Each of these women couldn't be more grateful for what ScreenWise has provided. For some, its education and screening. For others diagnostic testing and then those not so fortunate access to cancer treatment.

In 2018, at the age of 55 one woman felt a breast lump when giving her husband a hug. This woman was uninsured (unable to afford insurance), her husband and she were unemployed and to top it off her husband was in the middle of cancer treatment. The lump was felt the day before one of her husband's oncology appointments. At the appointment the lump was brought to the attention of her husband's provider. An exam was done and imaging was ordered that day. Within less than three days of being diagnosed with stage 2B triple negative breast cancer, she was enrolled in Oregon Medicaid. ScreenWise broke down many barriers and reduced many stressors. ScreenWise was probably the biggest blessing for this woman.

Many more women just like the woman above have experienced access to care which has reduced barriers and saved their life. St. Charles Health System supports ScreenWise and would like to see the Oregon ScreenWise program funded at \$1.3 million in HB5525 for the 2019-2021 biennium, and we respectfully request your support, as well.

Sincerely,

Susan Turnbull
St. Charles Cancer Center, Manager