

Town Hall Talking Points

NBCC

- As a breast cancer advocate, I have seen first-hand how devastating breast cancer can be. In the United States, 110 individuals—one every 13 minutes—die each day from breast cancer.
- I am proud to be a Member of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, a grassroots organization dedicated to ending breast cancer through action and advocacy.
- NBCC, a coalition of many diverse groups around the country, has been fighting since 1991 for high quality, evidence-based healthcare for all individuals.
- The current public health emergency makes addressing NBCC's priority issues more urgent than ever. Without immediate action, these issues will spiral out of control.

Access to Quality Healthcare

- Now more than ever, individuals must have access to affordable healthcare for all their medical needs.
- A special enrollment period must be opened on the Affordable Healthcare Act's exchange to ensure that uninsured and underinsured individuals have access to the healthcare they need.
- COBRA related financial assistance must flow to the laid-off, furloughed, or workers with reduced hours so they can maintain their job-based coverage.
- Incentives must be given to states to expand Medicaid by increasing the federal share of the cost, and all other appropriate incentives.
- Making sure that all individuals have access to healthcare is a good public health policy, especially during this unprecedented public health crisis. NBCC stands ready to work with you on this significant health care priority.

Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act

- Congress must continue to work to enact NBCC's legislative agenda, developed by advocates across the country in furtherance of our mission to end breast cancer. Included is the passage of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act, which would remove waiting periods for individuals with metastatic disease to have access to the healthcare for which they qualify.

- Ninety percent of breast cancer deaths are as a result of metastatic disease. Metastatic breast cancer is cancer that has spread from the breast to the bones, lungs or other distant parts of the body. There is no cure. The average life expectancy of an individual with metastatic breast cancer is three years.
- The Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (HR 2178/S 1374) would assure that women and men living with metastatic breast cancer who already qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Medicare have immediate access to support and medical care. Under current law, these individuals must wait five months for SSDI and 24 months for Medicare benefits to take effect.
- Waiting periods were put into place to address conditions that could reverse or improve, resulting in the individual no longer deemed to have a disability. In the case of metastatic breast cancer, there is no reversal and no cure.
- While more must be done to encourage new treatments and cures, increase access to medical care, reduce health disparities, and raise awareness for patients with metastatic breast cancer, , eliminating onerous waiting periods for Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare is a meaningful step for individuals and their families.
- Congress just passed the most extensive relief measure in U.S. history and is working on additional appropriations packages. There is a great deal of political momentum and grassroots support behind the Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act. There is no reason not to act now on this bill.