

Thank you Madam Chair, Committee Members and bill sponsors Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Buckner. My name is Heidi Morgan and I am here today representing Susan G. Komen Colorado. Komen Colorado is a statewide breast cancer organization seeking to decrease the breast cancer mortality rate by 50% by 2026. That IS a bold goal and without programs like BCCP we can't achieve that. Komen HQ recently released data that indicates we could reduce the breast cancer mortality rate right now by 30% without another research breakthrough. Simply put, BCCP saves lives!

We are proud of Colorado's participation in BCCP and our state's commitment to treat individuals – we are still leading the way with this program - leaving hundreds of women diagnosed with breast cancer and no where to turn for treatment. If this program is not continued here in Colorado that is exactly what would happen. People would be screened for breast cancer, find out that they have breast cancer and be left without a source to cover their treatment. And we know that if breast cancer is treated in its earliest stages, we not only save lives but we save money. In fact, breast cancer is 5 times more costly to treat when it has spread beyond the breast. The BCCP not only provides treatment for diagnosed individuals when they've met certain criteria but it does so in a seamless manner – one that ensures people have access to treatment in a timely manner. I want to remind us of the additional federal match BCCP brings in \$1.5 million. Let's make sure we continue to meet the needs of people with breast cancer in our state by reauthorizing BCCP.

Komen receives calls several times a week from people under 250% of the Federal Poverty Limit, and without the treatment provided through the BCCP program, these individuals would be lost in a system that doesn't have support when someone receives those scary words – you have breast cancer.

There will be an amendment offered today to strike the creation of the new Underinsured Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment program, which Komen Colorado had initially supported. However, given the complexity of developing new programs, we have asked the sponsors to amend out the program at this time to allow us interim discussions to ensure we develop the framework of this program in a way that will make it work best for those people the program we serve. We do support this amendment but hope to bring this concept back again, fully worked out, in 2020.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.