

SENATE RESOLUTION

8617

By Senators L. Wilson, Boehnke, Kauffman, King, Lovick, Muzzall, Nobles, Valdez, Wagoner, and C. Wilson

1 WHEREAS, Breast cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed  
2 cancers, and its many forms comprise the second leading cause of  
3 cancer deaths among women in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, From 2016 through 2020, on average, breast cancer caused  
5 the deaths of nineteen out of every one hundred thousand people in  
6 Washington; and

7 WHEREAS, It is estimated that in 2023, approximately two hundred  
8 ninety-seven thousand seven hundred ninety women will be diagnosed  
9 with breast cancer and over forty-three thousand will die from it;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The form of breast cancer known as Triple Negative  
12 Breast Cancer accounts for about fifteen to twenty percent of all  
13 diagnosed, invasive breast cancer cases in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, More than fifty-three thousand seven hundred new breast  
15 cancer cases in 2019 in the United States were Triple Negative Breast  
16 Cancer with higher prevalence among younger women, Black and Hispanic  
17 women, women with type 2 diabetes or carrying excess weight in the  
18 abdomen area, and those with BRCA1 mutations; and

19 WHEREAS, Due to its aggressive behavior, Triple Negative Breast  
20 Cancer grows quickly and is not only more likely to have spread by  
21 the time it is discovered, it also is more likely than other types of  
22 breast cancer to come back after treatment; and

1       WHEREAS, People diagnosed with metastatic Triple Negative  
2 Breast Cancer have less than a thirty percent chance of  
3 surviving past five years; and

4       WHEREAS, Triple Negative Breast Cancer cells do not contain  
5 three key receptors that medicines typically target in other  
6 types of breast cancers, meaning there are limited treatment  
7 options, although patients with an early diagnosis can often be  
8 treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; and

9       WHEREAS, Recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled  
10 advances in the fight against Triple Negative Breast Cancer,  
11 although limits on available therapies continue to make treating  
12 this disease a challenge; and

13       WHEREAS, Advances in breast cancer screening and treatment  
14 over the past few decades have reduced the overall breast cancer  
15 mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of Triple  
16 Negative Breast Cancer on racial and ethnic minority communities  
17 raises questions about what drives the disparities; and

18       WHEREAS, Only seventy-five percent of women in Washington  
19 have had a mammogram screening in the past two years; and

20       WHEREAS, It is necessary to promote Triple Negative Breast  
21 Cancer education, raise awareness about the disease-related  
22 disparities, and tackle inequities within the health care  
23 delivery system such as inadequate access to screening,  
24 diagnostic testing, and care, to improve early detection and  
25 survival; and

26       WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee is issuing a proclamation today  
27 celebrating the month of March as Triple Negative Breast Cancer  
28 Awareness Month;

29       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
30 Senate recognize the Governor's proclamation, and together,  
31 honor the month of March as Triple Negative Breast Cancer  
32 Awareness Month; and

33       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage awareness  
34 and education about Triple Negative Breast Cancer and patient  
35 access to care, services, and medicines along the entire  
36 continuum of care.

37 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,

1 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
2 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8617,  
3 adopted by the Senate  
4 March 1, 2023

5 SARAH BANNISTER  
6 Secretary of the Senate