United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 2, 2012

Nancy G. Brinker
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Susan G. Komen for the Cure
5005 LBJ Freeway
Suite 250
Dallas, TX 75244

Dear Ambassador Brinker,

We write to express our disappointment with Susan G. Komen for the Cure's decision to cut funding for breast cancer prevention, screening, and education at Planned Parenthood health centers. This troubling decision threatens to reduce access to necessary, life saving services. We urge Komen to reconsider its decision.

Planned Parenthood is a trusted provider of health care for women and men. More than 90 percent of the services provided by Planned Parenthood are primary and preventative including wellness exams and cancers screenings that save lives. Each year, Planned Parenthood health clinics provide 750,000 breast exams, 770,000 pap tests and nearly 4 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases. Twenty percent of all women in the U.S. have visited a Planned Parenthood health center.

For the past five years, grants to local affiliates of Planned Parenthood have been an important part of Planned Parenthood's work to protect women from breast cancer. Komen funding for Planned Parenthood has provided nearly 170,000 clinical breast exams and resulted in 6,400 referrals for mammograms. In 2011 alone, grants from Komen provided Planned Parenthood with roughly $650,000 in funding for breast cancer prevention, screening, and education. According to a recent statement by Komen, "In some areas of the U.S., our affiliates have determined a Planned Parenthood clinic to be the best or only local place where women can receive breast health care."

It would be tragic if any woman—let alone thousands of women— lost access to these potentially life-saving screenings because of a politically motivated attack.

We earnestly hope that you will put women's health before partisan politics and reconsider this decision for the sake of the women who depend on both your organizations for access to the health care they need.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Lautenberg

Patty Murray

Barbara A. Mikulski

Barbara Boxer

Maria Cantwell

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Robert Menendez

Ron Wyden

Richard Blumenthal

Jeanne Shaheen

Jon Tester

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Mark Begich

Daniel K. Akaka

Bernard Sanders

Sherrod Brown

Patrick Leahy

Max Baucus

Ben Cardin

Dianne Feinstein

Al Franken

John F. Kerry

Claire McCaskill

Debbie Stabenow

Chris Coons

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