

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: January 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Support for California Senate Bill 836 (Oropeza) – Restoring Early Cancer Detection

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors support California Senate Bill 836 (Oropeza) Restoring Early Cancer Detection and direct the Executive Office and the County advocates in Sacramento to further the Board's position.

BACKGROUND: Existing state law requires the State Department of Public Health to provide breast cancer and cervical cancer screening services under a federal grant made under the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention breast and cervical cancer early detection program to eligible low-income individuals. The Every Woman Counts (EWC) program provides free breast cancer screening to low-income women with an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A family of five would have to earn \$51,580 or less annually. Partial funding for this program is provided by federal grant dollars and state tobacco tax revenue.

Partly because of funding issues, in December 2009, the California Department of Public Health announced that as of January 1, 2010, DPH will stop enrolling women into EWC. This freeze will continue at least through July 1, 2010. Once enrollment opens up, screenings will only be available to women age 50 and older.

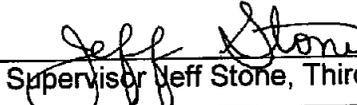
SB 836, as introduced by Senator Jenny Oropeza, would restore the Every Woman Counts program by:

- Allowing women, regardless of age and with a physician's recommendation to obtain a free screening;
- Allowing women 40 years and older to access the program;
- Appropriating funding. The amount and source of funding has yet to be determined.

Breast cancer kills more than 4,000 California women every year, and is diagnosed in 25,000 more. Breast cancer is the most common invasive cancer among women. It is the second leading cause of deaths among women in California. African-American and Latina women are more likely to die from breast cancer due to it being detected and diagnosed at a later, less treatable stage.

Early detection is vital to provide effective treatment and lengthen survival rates. Getting tested regularly is the best way for women to lower their risk of dying from breast cancer.

I urge the Board to join with me and support SB 836, to restore early breast cancer detection.


Supervisor Jeff Stone, Third District

Department Recommendation: Consent Policy

Per Executive Office: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist.

AGENDA NO.

3.71

California State Senate

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SENATOR JENNY OROPEZA
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CHAIR, SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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January 2010

Dear Friends:

Each year, more than 25,000 California women develop breast cancer and more than 4,000 die from it. Breast Cancer is the most common invasive cancer and is the state's second-leading cause of deaths among women.

California has a long standing history of being an advocate for early detection as the benefits are not negligible. Detecting cancer at its early stages increases a women's 5-year rate of survival by 95 percent.

The Every Woman Counts (EWC) program provides free screening to low-income and underinsured California women. Unfortunately, in December 2009, the California Department of Public Health announced that as of January 1, 2010, DPH will stop enrolling women into the EWC program. This freeze will continue at least through July 1, 2010. Once enrollment opens up, screenings will only be available to women age 50 and older.

This decision will have detrimental consequences. It becomes a question of the haves and the have nots.

SB 836 would restore our commitment to saving lives by (1) allowing women, regardless of age and with a physician's recommendation to obtain a free screening; (2) allowing women 40 years and older to access the program; and (3) appropriating funding.

I need your support in protecting women's health. Please support SB 148. Here's what you can do:

- Write a letter in support of SB 148 (Oropeza) from your organization or agency. Fax it to my office: (916) 323-6056
- Should you have any further questions, please contact Tomasa Dueñas, (916) 651-4028.

Sincerely,

JENNY OROPEZA
Senator, 28th District
Enclosure: SB 836 Fact Sheet

Letter of Support - SUGGESTED Language

(Organization Letterhead)

DATE

The Honorable Jenny Oropeza
State Capitol Building, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 836 (Oropeza) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Oropeza:

On behalf of (insert organization), I am writing to inform you of our support for your bill, Senate Bill 836 (SB 836), Restoring Early Cancer Detection, which would restore the Every Woman Counts program by (1) allowing women, regardless of age and with a physician's recommendation to obtain a free screening; (2) allowing women 40 years and older to access the program; and (3) appropriating needed funds.

Breast cancer is a deadly and devastating disease. An estimated 4,000 women die from breast cancer in California with an additional 25,000 diagnosed annually. Beating breast cancer is made easier with early detection.

The state's Every Woman Counts (EWC) program was established to ensure that even the poorest women in California have access to early detection and a fighting chance for survival. The decision made to downscale the program is taking a step backwards.

In 2009, EWC served over 300,000 women. Stopping screenings now will result in higher mortality rates due to the cancer being detected at a later and deadlier stage. Once breast cancer is caught late, it is only a matter of time before death.

Low-income women should not be left out of the equation.

The (insert organization) supports SB 836 and we look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

Name
Title