



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support and Advocacy

June 11, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chair and Ranking Member,

I am writing on behalf of METAvivor to request your support for America's cancer registries in the upcoming FY 27 appropriations process. METAvivor is a volunteer-led, nonprofit organization dedicated to funding research that improves both the quality and length of life for individuals living with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer (MBC). METAvivor's mission is rooted in hope and action as we advocate for increased public awareness of the unique needs of the MBC community, provide strength and purpose to patients, and maximize the impact of every dollar we invest in critical research. Metastatic breast cancer occurs when cancer cells spread from the breast to other parts of the body—most often the bones, liver, lungs, or brain. While treatments can extend life, a diagnosis of stage 4 breast cancer is not considered survivable, leading to around 42,000 deaths annually.

In 2026, an estimated 2 million people will be diagnosed with cancer, a number that includes between 73,000 and 86,000 cases of metastatic breast cancer. Together, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) collect data for nearly 100% of the US population. This data gives our community vital insights into cancer incidence, the prevalence of different types of cancer, the effectiveness of screenings, treatments, and other efforts to improve patient outcomes. The information collected informs research and helps project future trends and needs. METAvivor deeply values this surveillance and looks to a future where these registries can be modernized to capture even more nuanced data, such as cancer recurrence and progression to metastatic cancer. This would offer a deeper



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understanding of 20-30% of breast cancer cases that progress to MBC and resulting mortality rates.

The U.S. CDC NPCR and NCI SEER cancer surveillance systems are the only national, reliable source of cancer data. Consistent and strong support for these registries is essential in our fight against cancer. **METAvivor joins the broader cancer community in urging Congress to support cancer surveillance funding with a programmatic request of \$63.4 million for the CDC's NPCR. Additionally, we support report language directing funding levels for NCI's SEER program be maintained or increased as necessary to continue nationwide cancer surveillance activities.**

Notably, despite the increase in funding Congress provided to NCI for FY2026, SEER registries have seen significant reductions to their contracts, which entered a new cycle on May 1, 2026. In fact, over the last 15 months the funding levels of SEER registries have been cut by 20%. While the state and regional registries are finding ways to do the best they can, they are not able to perform the public health work necessary with reduced funding. Notably, these are not traditional research grants; rather, they are operational contracts that are necessary to support longstanding federal responsibilities and have served as a backbone of the nation's cancer surveillance infrastructure for nearly 50 years.

We must fully fund NPCR and SEER to ensure that the U.S. does not lose ground and cede decades of progress in the war on cancer. Current and future cancer patients, including those battling MBC, are counting on us to invest in and continue to refine these systems to better understand trends, inform research, and treatment.

Thank you for your consideration. For questions, please contact michelle@federalgrp.com or taylor@federalgrp.com.

Sincerely,

Kelly Shanahan, M.D.
President

METAvivor



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