



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer | Research | Advocacy | Support

Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (H.R. 2048/S. 3442)

REQUEST

METAvivor urges members of Congress to co-sponsor and support the bipartisan Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (H.R. 2048/S.3442).

The House has already demonstrated overwhelming bipartisan support for this legislation, with a majority of the House cosponsoring the bill, including two-thirds of the Ways and Means Committee. We are asking the Ways and Means Committee to move H.R. 2048 forward so that this bipartisan legislation can advance in the House.

WHY WE'RE HERE

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is stage IV breast cancer where the tumors have spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body. It is a terminal diagnosis. While treatable, it is not curable. People with MBC face unique challenges in accessing timely, affordable, and effective treatment.

- An estimated 170,000 women in the U.S. are currently living with MBC, and 2,670 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2026.
- 42,140 women and 530 men will die from MBC this year.
- About 1 in 4 patients with early-stage breast cancer will develop MBC
- Only 32% of people diagnosed with MBC live longer than 5 years.

Nearly 30,000 Americans die annually waiting for Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare benefits.

BACKGROUND

The Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act would eliminate arbitrary waiting periods for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and Medicare coverage for those with metastatic breast cancer.

Under current law, there is a five month waiting period between when a person with MBC applies for Social Security Disability benefits and when they begin receiving those payments.

That person must then wait another 24 months after disability benefits begin before they are able to receive Medicare insurance coverage.

This delay creates obvious hardships for people with metastatic breast cancer as they struggle to navigate care and pay medical expenses.

Because Stage IV MBC patients live, on average, 18–36 months after diagnosis, this delay means many people with MBC may not live long enough to receive benefits from the system they have paid into and for which they are fully eligible. Only 32% of women and 19% of men survive 5 years post-MBC diagnosis.

We urge you to support the *Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (H.R. 2048/S.3442)* to ensure that Americans living with MBC can access the disability and Medicare benefits they have earned before they die.

METAvivor is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that funds vital research to help improve the longevity and quality of life for MBC patients. As passionately committed patients ourselves, we rally public attention to the urgent needs of the MBC community, help patients find strength through support and purpose, and make every dollar count as we work with and fund researchers seeking to extend and improve the quality of care for MBC patients.