

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2003-04

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on
Public Health
(AC-PH)**

(Form Updated: 11/20/2008)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

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➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

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➤ Public Hearings ... PH

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➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt

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Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

**

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

****03hr_ab0351_AC-PH_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

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Wisconsin Speaker Pro Tempore
Representative Stephen J. Freese

October 7, 2003

J.A. Hines, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Public Health
Room 10W, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Chairman Hines:

Since I am unable to be present for the October 8th executive session of the Assembly Committee on Public Health, I would like to submit my voting intentions for the committee record.

Let it be known for the record that I would have voted "aye" on passage of Assembly Bill 108, Assembly Bill 332, Assembly Bill 351 and Assembly Bill 441.

Sincerely,

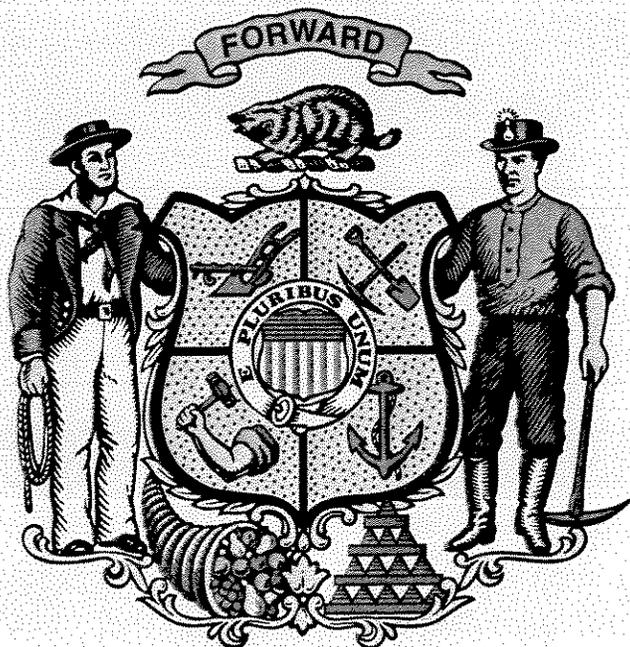
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Freese".

Stephen J. Freese
State Representative

Fifty-First Assembly District

Office: Post Office Box 8952 • Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8952 • (608) 266-7502 • Fax: (608) 261-9474 • Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
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DATE: September 10, 2003
TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Public Health
FROM: American Cancer Society
Jeff Ranous, Legislative Counsel
(262) 271-4908
RE: **Support for Assembly Bill 351**

The American Cancer Society supports Assembly Bill 351 and believes that the revenue generated by this bill would aid in funding critical research projects aimed at eradicating breast cancer.

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women and results in the second largest number of female cancer deaths. In 2003, an estimated 212,600 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer across the U.S. -- 3,900 new breast cancers cases are expected to be found in Wisconsin. Of the women previously diagnosed with this insidious disease an estimated 40,200 deaths are expected to result nationwide with approximately 700 deaths occurring in Wisconsin.

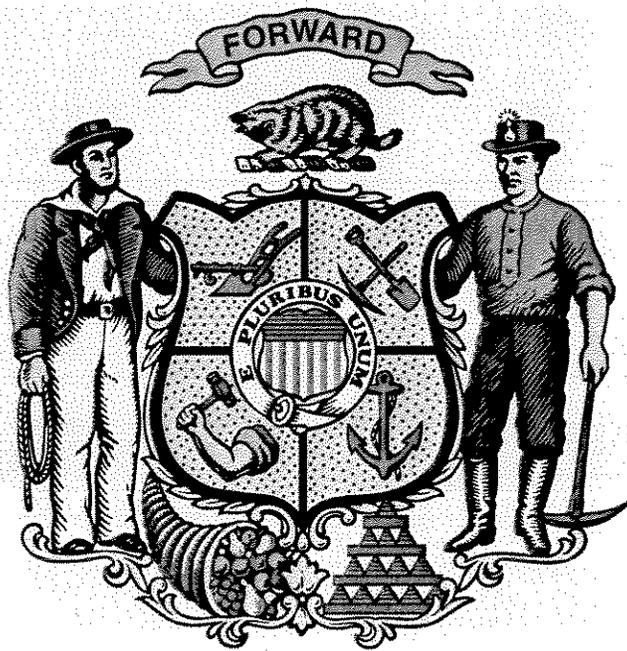
While these statistics are shocking there is some good news in the fight against breast cancer. Breast cancer death rates in women ages 20-69 have declined by 25 percent since 1990. Additionally, the five-year survival rate for localized breast cancer has increased from 72% in the 1940s to 97% today. Much of this progress is a direct result of research that has led to advances in treatments, especially Tamoxifen, and improved early detection through mammography.

Even though we have shown significant progress in the fight against breast cancer there are statistics that highlight that we must do more. If a woman has breast cancer that has spread regionally her survival rate declines to 77%. Women with distant metastases of their cancer have their survival rate decrease dramatically to 21%. While survival rates for women who find this cancer early are good, the chances of surviving an advanced stage of this disease are not as promising. As such, much more needs to be done in order eradicate this disease.

Research is one critical avenue that must be followed if we are to reduce the burden of breast cancer. There are many new and evolving research projects that will likely impact breast cancer prevention and treatment. Some breast cancer research areas that are considered especially promising include:

- **Chemoprevention.** Recent studies suggest that selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) lower breast cancer risk in women with certain risk factors. Further research with SERMs is expected to lead to ways of preventing breast cancers.
- **Early Detection.** Detecting cancers early offers more treatment choices and a higher rate of survival. Many exciting new early detection techniques are being explored including research into improved mammography.
- **Angiogenesis.** In order for cancers to grow, blood vessels develop to nourish the cancer cells through a process called angiogenesis. New drugs are being developed that may be useful in stopping breast cancer growth by preventing new blood vessels from forming.

With additional resources directed toward these and other exciting research projects the burden of breast cancer can, and will, be dramatically reduced. The American Cancer Society believes that the revenue generated from the funding mechanism contained in Assembly Bill 351 will provide critical revenue for research as well as help further highlight the importance of this critical issue. We encourage your to act favorably on this important legislation.





September 10, 2003

Dear Chairperson Hines and Committee on Public Health Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of Assembly Bill 351, creating an income tax check off box for breast cancer research.

The Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition, whom I represent, is a grassroots organization focused on ending the breast cancer epidemic through education and advocacy. As a member organization of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, one of our goals is to promote research into the causes, prevention and treatment of breast cancer through increased funding. We also seek to be active in improving the distribution and coordination of those funds.

There will be 3900 women in Wisconsin who, upon receiving a diagnosis of breast cancer this year, will likely think in abject frustration "Why haven't they found a cure for this yet?" We know that part of the answer is because breast cancer is a very complex disease and research has yet to yield many definitive answers as to what causes it in the first place.

Known risk factors for breast cancer account for less than 30% of diagnoses. This includes the very small number of breast cancers attributed to true "genetic" mutations (5-10%). We need much more research done to find out what factors cause the disease if we are to ever begin to learn how to prevent it.

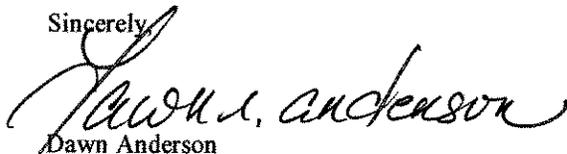
We know that another part of the answer is that moving from laboratory research to clinical trials to the "bedside" is a long and very costly process. We need to ensure that if we are investing the time and money in quality research, we can also support the clinical trials process and its attendant costs.

People touched by breast cancer, whether it is oneself, family member or a friend, want to see more research being done. They want to see progress being made in getting outcomes from the laboratory to the public. We believe they WILL use the tax check off to support a breast cancer research program in Wisconsin. We believe that the creation and effective implementation of such a program will benefit not only the families of our state, but all women who live in fear of the disease.

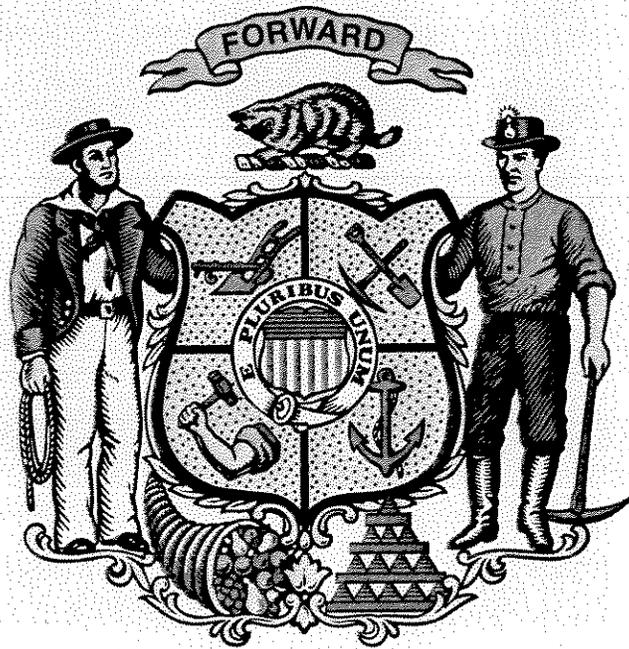
Six other states currently have similar programs, with California being regarded by breast cancer advocates as the "gold standard". Since its inception, it has raised over \$4 million via an income tax check off. With the passage of AB351, Wisconsin could join the ranks of these states seeking to find creative ways to raise funds that will further research into the causes, prevention and treatment of breast cancer.

We strongly urge your support of this bill and make ourselves available as a resource in its implementation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dawn Anderson
Board President
Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition
(414) 332-6179





September 15, 2003

Representative J.A. Hines
Room 10 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Hines:

Thank you for holding the Committee on Public Health hearing on September 10 to learn more about a particularly important bill – AB 351 – creating a tax check off box for breast cancer research and for the opportunity to testify before the committee.

I hope you and the committee members will give great consideration to the bill and do what you can to support it. I was reminded again of how important funding for more research is at our annual event this past weekend. A WBCC member and volunteer whom I hadn't seen for awhile approached me. I hadn't recognized her in her new wig – she had had another reoccurrence of her cancer. She very matter-of-factly began discussing plans for her memorial service and the role the WBCC could play in seeing her wishes carried out. One of those wishes is to get more funding for research. She is on her last hope for medication, but it does not look good.

Please keep women like her in your thoughts as you consider sending this bill to the floor for a vote.

Again, thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dawn R. Anderson
Board President
WI Breast Cancer Coalition
(414) 332-6179