



## THE PALS ACT: A PRIMER

### Background

In April 2015, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) proposed new breast cancer screening guidelines that would limit access to mammography for millions of women ages 40 to 49. The draft recommendations give annual mammograms for women ages 40-49 a "C" grade, meaning most women in this age group, according to the Task Force, do not need an annual exam. The proposed recommendations also state that women 50-74 need mammograms only every other year. You can review the recommendations in more detail [here](#).

### What is the PALS Act?

The Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings (PALS) Act was introduced in both the Senate ([S. 1926](#)) and the House ([H.R. 3339](#)) earlier this year. This bipartisan legislation would protect access to mammograms for women ages 40-74 by placing a two-year moratorium on implementing the USPSTF breast cancer screening recommendations. This two-year "time out" would provide ample time for a thoughtful discussion about whether changes need to be made.

### Who are the sponsors?

Senators Barbara Mikulski (D – MD) and Kelly Ayotte (R – NH)  
Congresswomen Renee Ellmers (R-NC) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

### Who supports the PALS Act?

The following organizations have expressed support for the PALS Act and continued access to mammography screening:

Bright Pink, Black Women's Health Imperative, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association, Prevent Cancer Foundation, FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Tigerlily Foundation, Men Against Breast Cancer Fund, Oncology Nursing Society, National Patient Advocate Foundation, National Black Nurses Association, National Consortium of Breast Centers, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, American College of Radiology, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Sharsheret

### What can I do?

Urge your Members of Congress to cosponsor and pass the PALS Act! Contact your Members of Congress today: (202) 224-3121. Visit [www.StoptheGuidelines.com](http://www.StoptheGuidelines.com) for more information.