



**We can change the odds.**

The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) provides low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women access to lifesaving breast cancer screening tests and follow-up services. However, Congress has only provided enough funding for fewer than one in five women eligible for the program to receive these lifesaving cancer screenings. So, what about the other 4?

### The Problem

Despite increased awareness among women of the importance of early detection, **some women continue to face barriers** that prevent them from accessing lifesaving cancer screenings. **Many deaths from breast and cervical cancer can be prevented** by increasing mammography and pap test screening rates among low-income, uninsured and underinsured women, who face more frequent late-stage cancer diagnosis when treatment options are limited and survival rates are lowest.

### A Solution

One of the greatest opportunities to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in breast cancer is to increase prevention, early detection and treatment services. **We can change the odds** by working to ensure a great proportion of uninsured and underinsured women have access to breast cancer screenings and follow-up care **through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.**

The NBCCEDP has provided more than 5.8 million screening exams to underserved women. To ensure prompt delivery of care, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act gave all 50 states and the District of Columbia the option to provide Medicaid to cover treatment for women diagnosed with cancer under the NBCCEDP.

While NBCCEDP is successful, the severe underfunding means fewer than 1 in 5 eligible underserved, uninsured, or low-income women have access to these lifesaving screenings and treatment services. Many more lives can be saved through this program.

Now is the time for Congress to help by increasing funding for the program to \$250 million this year, and make a commitment to fully fund this lifesaving program as soon as possible. Remember all the women whose lives you could save when making decisions about funding for these critical screenings and services. What if it were you?

### Three Things You Can Do Today!

1. **Join!** Become a member of ACS CAN by going to [www.acscan.org/makingstrides](http://www.acscan.org/makingstrides) today.
2. **Take Action!** Send a message to your elected officials.
3. **Stay Informed!** Text **STRIDES to 73585** to receive messages about breast cancer initiatives

