

Governor Kasich Says State Will Match Tax Refund Donations for Breast Cancer Screening

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Gov. John Kasich joined breast cancer advocates at a Statehouse event to publicize a new law allowing taxpayers to dedicate their state tax refunds to a program that helps fund breast and cervical cancer screenings for low-income, uninsured women.

The governor also said his recent move to expand Medicaid eligibility to childless adults up to 138% of the federal poverty level would help fund early detection efforts that dramatically increase survival rates for breast and cervical cancer patients.

As for the new law creating a tax check-off option on state tax returns to generate money for the Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) ([HB 112](#)), the governor announced the state will match every dollar in taxpayer donations with \$3 from federal State Health Innovation, with matching funds guaranteed up to \$1 million.

The nearly 20-year-old BCCP program, which is managed by the Ohio Department of Health, save lives by helping low-income, uninsured women get early screening and diagnostic tests for breast and cervical cancer.

“We have these poor women that are not able to get screening because they don’t have the money. If they shell out and they get care, then they get some bill collector chasing them, so they’d rather not do it,” said Gov. Kasich.

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), who sponsored the bill, and members of the Ohio Affiliates of Susan G. Komen, joined the governor in praising the new tax refund donation program.

Tammy Weis, of Komen Columbus and a BCCP beneficiary, said breast cancer accounts for one in every three incidences of cancer and one in eight women will be diagnosed with the disease some point in their life. Ohio ranks 32nd for incidence of breast cancer among the states, but fourth in mortality from the disease, she said.

Pam Mascio, of Komen Northeast Ohio, said the new tax check-off program will generate an estimated \$250,000 to \$400,000 a year for the Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project, which will allow the BCCP to screen an additional 1,700 women across the state.

For more information on the tax-check off, please visit <http://www.kommenneohio.org/get-involved/advocacy/state-advocacy.html>.