

California State Senate



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SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

September 10, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1359 – Voluntary Income Tax Check-Offs for Cancer Research

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1359 relative to voluntary contributions for cancer research.

Senate Bill 1359 extends for five years the existing voluntary personal income tax check-offs for the California Breast Cancer Research Program and the California Cancer Research Fund.

Both check-offs have successfully met the annual \$250,000 voluntary contribution threshold to continue placement on the California Resident Income Tax Return Form and have historically been two of the most successful check-offs, providing a simple way for Californians to donate and make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Since 1993, the California Breast Cancer Research Fund tax check-off has generated over \$10 million for critical breast cancer research projects, including over \$450,000 last year.

Since 2008, the California Cancer Research Fund tax check-off has generated nearly \$1.5 million, including over \$440,000 in 2011, for cancer research and education efforts in California.

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The bill received unanimous votes in both the Senate and Assembly and is supported by a broad coalition of organizations, including American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen for the Cure (and CA affiliates), American Association of University Women, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - District IX, Association of Northern California Oncologists, Breast Cancer Action, Breast Cancer Fund, California Women's Law Center, California National Organization for Women, Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, and the University of California.

Without this bill to extend the sunset, these two important sources of funding for cancer research and education will expire at the end of the year.

In this year alone, more than 144,000 Californians will be diagnosed with cancer and 55,000 people will die from the disease. Senate Bill 1359 is a modest but important step that is needed to preserve funds for cancer research.

To my knowledge, **there is no opposition to the bill**. I respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1359.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Simitian', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District

cc: Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary
Gareth Elliott, Legislative Secretary
Brian Putler, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary