ARIZONA SENATOR
MARK KELLY

Know Your Risk Act

Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ)

Background: Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting women in the United States. Early detection dramatically improves outcomes: when diagnosed at a localized stage, the five-year relative survival rate is approximately 99 percent, compared with much lower survival rates after the disease has spread. Early identification can also reduce the need for aggressive treatment and improve quality of life, making prevention and screening essential in clinical care.

Breast cancer risk assessment tools help clinicians estimate a woman's likelihood of developing the disease and identify those who may benefit from earlier or more frequent screening, preventive interventions, or genetic counseling. Commonly used models like the Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool (BCRAT), the Tyrer-Cuzick model, and the BOADICEA model each use different combinations of personal, reproductive, and family history information to estimate breast cancer risk and facilitate individualized care.

Despite decades of scientific validation, these tools remain underutilized in clinical settings. Increasing awareness and integration of breast cancer risk assessment tools could improve early detection, support shared decision-making between patients and providers, and help reduce breast cancer morbidity and mortality through more personalized prevention and intervention strategies.

About this Legislation: The Know Your Risk Act seeks to make evidence-based breast cancer risk assessment a routine part of health care. The bill:

- Establishes a task force of experts to recommend strategies to improve access to, evaluation of, and awareness of evidence-based risk assessment tools, as well as ways to improve access to medically needed care after utilizing such a tool;
- Directs HHS and NIH to study and continually improve the accuracy of risk assessment tools;
- Directs the National Cancer Institute to update and expand publicly available educational materials about risk assessment tools for patients and providers.

Endorsements: Susan G. Komen, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Breast Cancer Research Foundation, The Estée Lauder Companies, National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Anne Klein, Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer, My Density Matters, FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, the Prevent Cancer

Foundation, Breast Cancer Early Detection Coalition (BCEDC), Women's Health Advocates, Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention, Check for a Lump, Families Fighting Hereditary Cancer, HealthyWomen, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Lynch Syndrome Awareness and Education, Men Supporting Women with Cancer, SHARE Cancer Support, Sharsheret | The Jewish Breast & Ovarian Cancer Community, Society of Breast Cancer Imaging, The Latino Cancer Institute, Tigerlily Foundation, TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance, Unite for HER, and the Young Survival Coalition