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Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay, Supervisor Smith, Supervisor Lusk, Supervisor Jimenez, Supervisor Walkinshaw, Supervisor Alcorn, Supervisor Storck, Supervisor Herrity, and Supervisor Bierman

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Members of the Board,

Each year in the U.S., approximately 270,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 42,000 lose their lives to the disease. Breast cancer is complex, with prognosis and treatment options varying widely. Depending on the type of cancer, treatments may include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other therapies. Each diagnosis is personal and unique to the individual.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Fairfax Health District, breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer after skin cancer. Healthy lifestyle choices, such as maintaining a healthy weight, exercising, and limiting alcohol intake, can help reduce cancer risk. Screening tests can detect various types of cancer and identify abnormal cells before symptoms appear. Early detection of breast cancer not only enhances treatment options but also reduces the incidence of advanced stages and significantly decreases death rates.

Inova Breast Cancer Program offers an online breast cancer risk assessment to help individuals understand their predicted five-year and lifetime risk. Additionally, breast cancer screenings through the *Every Woman's Life* program are free for eligible individuals, providing uninsured, low-income residents access to vital screening services. In Fairfax County and the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax, partners include Neighborhood Health and HealthWorks for Northern Virginia.

Many immigrants face language barriers, and cultural stigmas around discussing health issues, which may prevent them from seeking timely screenings and treatment. Raising awareness helps bridge these gaps, ensuring that immigrant communities receive vital information, support, and resources to detect breast cancer early, improving survival rates and overall health outcomes. Fairfax County is committed and dedicated to reducing health disparities, increasing access to affordable healthcare, improving health literacy, and providing language assistance to all who need it.

Therefore, I ask without objection, that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to prepare a proclamation recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Fairfax County to be presented at a future Board meeting. We further move that the Office of Public Affairs be directed to publicize the Month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Fairfax County.