THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

Wendy A. Woodward, MD, Ph.D., FASTRO
Professor, Chair *(ad Interim)*, Department of Breast Radiation Oncology
Executive Director, Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic
Co-Director, The University of Texas Medical Scientist Training Program at Houston

wwoodward@mdanderson.org
T 713.563.2300 F 713-563-2331

Breast Radiation Oncology
1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Unit 1422
Houston, Texas 77030

January 29, 2025

Dear Mr. Schulenburg,

I am writing today on behalf of the University of Texas Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC) Research Program and Clinic at MD Anderson Cancer Center to express my deep condolences over the loss of Marnie Schulenburg to this terrible disease. We are the largest and longest running dedicated IBC program in the world and know first-hand how devastating failure to recognize and urgently work up inflammatory breast symptoms is for IBC patients struggling to get a correct diagnosis. As a program, we applaud your work to pass requirements for nursing education and inflammatory breast cancer into law in the state of Massachusetts. This effort is critically important, and I hope it will be replicated in all 50 states.

As you know inflammatory breast cancer is a terrible disease that disproportionately impacts young women and young mothers and is so aggressive it presents as a metastatic, incurable diagnosis 30% of the time. This is in part due to the chronic misdiagnosis related to the difficulty in making the diagnosis and the lack of awareness of this diagnosis among primary care professionals. Including IBC education as a mandatory component of nursing training will absolutely save lives. Importantly, information on how to make this diagnosis exists and can easily be incorporated into nursing curriculum. We have developed a public IBC work up algorithm for patients with inflammatory breast symptoms and this or similar materials from other large IBC programs or outstanding IBC foundations could be easily developed and incorporated into all primary care and nursing education.

Please don't hesitate to call on us if there's anything we can do to help create the content needed or support the efforts of Marnie's army to pass this law.

Sincerely,

Wendy A. Woodward, M.D. Ph.D., FASTRO
Frances Black King Professor and Chair *(ad interim)*,
Breast Radiation Oncology