Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute

450 Brookline Avenue
Boston, MA 02215-5450

PAGE D1-HD.2447/H.2489 "Marnie's Law"

April 9, 2025

State Senator William J. Driscoll, Jr., Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts State House Room 312-D
Boston, MA 02133

State Representative Marjorie C. Decker, Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
Massachusetts State House Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Testimony in support for H2489 – An Act Relative to Including Inflammatory Breast Cancer Awareness in Nursing Education, Marnie's Law

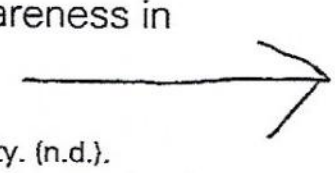
Dear Chairs Driscoll and Decker and Distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Public Health,

On behalf of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H2489 – An Act Relative to Including Inflammatory Breast Cancer Awareness in Nursing Education, Marnie's Law.

Inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) is a rare and aggressive type of invasive breast cancer, characterized by cancer blocking the lymph vessels in the skin.[1] One of the initial obstacles faced by patients with IBC is obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis. IBC is challenging because it often does not present as a lump in the breast; rather, it appears as swelling or redness in the breast. Diagnosis is often delayed, misdiagnosed, or missed. By the time IBC is detected, it has often spread to other parts of the body and has become incurable in 30 percent of patients. The accuracy of an IBC diagnosis heavily relies on the provider's experience, meaning patients may receive varying levels of care based on the healthcare facility they visit and the expertise of the provider they see.

H2489 aims to integrate education on IBC into the undergraduate curriculum of all approved nursing programs in the Commonwealth. By ensuring that nurses are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of IBC, this bill will enable healthcare professionals to act quicky, improve patient outcomes, reduce the chance of misdiagnosis, and potentially save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical bill. We respectfully request that H2489 – An Act Relative to Including Inflammatory Breast Cancer Awareness in



[1] *Inflammatory breast cancer: Details, diagnosis, and signs.* Breast Cancer | American Cancer Society. (n.d.). https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/types-of-breast-cancer/inflammatory-breast-cancer.html

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Nursing Education, Marnie's Law receive a favorable report by the committee. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Scott Hartman, Director of Government Affairs at Scott_Hartman@dfci.harvard.edu or 781.443.5253.

Sincerely,

Filipa Lynce, MD
Director, Inflammatory Breast Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

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