“Young Women’s Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009” or the “EARLY Act”.

Summary: Establishes a series of programs within the Department of Health and Human Services to better educate and assist young women who may be affected by breast cancer.

Status update: On August 5, 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced public meetings of the advisory committee on September 21-23, 2011.

Next steps:
- May 23, 2010 – Advisory Committee established (missed deadline).
- June 24, 2010 – Announcement regarding the advisory committee in the Federal Register.
- October 21, 2010 – CDC announced the members of the advisory committee, noting that the committee had “convened.”
- January 6, 2011 – CDC announced a public meeting of the advisory group for this program.
- January 31 – February 1, 2011 – First public meeting of this advisory committee.
- September 21-23 – Second public meeting of this advisory committee.
- Required appropriations for the various authorized programs.

Additional information:
- Registration for the January 31 – February 1 advisory committee meeting -- http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/what_cdc_is_doing/conference.htm
- Advisory Committee members -- http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/what_cdc_is_doing/young_women.htm
- HR 1740, Rep. Wasserman’s bill, the “Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009” -- http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.111hr1740
- S 994, Sen. Klobuchar’s bill, the “Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009” -- http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.111s994
- Additional advocacy -- http://earlyactawareness.org/index.html
**Long summary:**

**Educational campaign.** The Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009 or EARLY Act amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to conduct a national evidence-based education campaign: (1) to increase public awareness regarding the threats posed by breast cancer to young women, including the particular risks faced by certain ethnic and cultural groups; and (2) focusing on awareness of risk factors and achieving early detection through community-centered informational forums, public service advertisements, and media campaigns.

**Multimedia campaign.** Directs the Secretary to award grants to entities to establish national multimedia campaigns that: (1) will encourage young women to be aware of their personal risk factors, strategies for increasing early detection and self awareness, evidence based preventative lifestyle changes, and other appropriate breast cancer early detection and risk reduction strategies; (2) will encourage young women of specific higher-risk populations to talk to their medical practitioners about those risks and methods for appropriate screening and surveillance; and (3) may include advertising through specified media.

**Advisory Committee and other activities.** Requires the Secretary, acting through the Director of CDC, to: (1) establish an advisory committee to assist in creating and conducting the public education campaign; (2) conduct an education campaign to increase awareness among health care professionals; and (3) conduct prevention research.

**Grants.** Directs the Secretary to award grants to organizations and institutions to provide to young women diagnosed with breast cancer substantive assistance and health information from credible sources on: (1) education and counseling regarding fertility preservation; (2) social, emotional, psychosocial, financial, lifestyle, and caregiver support; (3) familial risk factors; and (4) risk reduction strategies to reduce recurrence or metastasis.

**Authorization.** Authorizes $9 M for each of the fiscal years 2010 – 2014.

**Legislative text:**

SEC. 10413. YOUNG WOMEN'S BREAST HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORT OF YOUNG WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Young Women’s Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009” or the “EARLY Act”.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**‘‘PART V—PROGRAMS RELATING TO BREAST HEALTH AND CANCER**

**‘‘SEC. 399NN. YOUNG WOMEN'S BREAST HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORT OF YOUNG WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER.**

‘‘(a) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall conduct a national evidence-based education campaign to increase awareness of young women’s knowledge regarding—

‘‘(A) breast health in young women of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds;

‘‘(B) breast awareness and good breast health habits;

‘‘(C) the occurrence of breast cancer and the general and specific risk factors in women who may be at high risk for breast cancer based on familial, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds such as Ashkenazi Jewish populations;

‘‘(D) evidence-based information that would encourage young women and their health care professional to increase early detection of breast cancers; and

‘‘(E) the availability of health information and other resources for young women diagnosed with breast cancer.
“(2) Evidence-Based, Age Appropriate Messages.—The campaign shall provide evidence-based, age-appropriate messages and materials as developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee established under paragraph (4).

“(3) Media Campaign.—In conducting the education campaign under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall award grants to entities to establish national multimedia campaigns oriented to young women that may include advertising through television, radio, print media, billboards, posters, all forms of existing and especially emerging social networking media, other Internet media, and any other medium determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(4) Advisory Committee.—

“(A) Establishment.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish an advisory committee to assist in creating and conducting the education campaigns under paragraph (1) and subsection (b)(1).

“(B) Membership.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall appoint to the advisory committee under subparagraph (A) such members as deemed necessary to properly advise the Secretary, and shall include organizations and individuals with expertise in breast cancer, disease prevention, early detection, diagnosis, public health, social marketing, genetic screening and counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care, and survivorship in young women.

“(b) Health Care Professional Education Campaign.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall conduct an education campaign among physicians and other health care professionals to increase awareness—

“(1) of breast health, symptoms, and early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in young women, including specific risk factors such as family history of cancer and women that may be at high risk for breast cancer, such as Ashkenazi Jewish population;

“(2) on how to provide counseling to young women about their breast health, including knowledge of their family cancer history and importance of providing regular clinical breast examinations;

“(3) concerning the importance of discussing healthy behaviors, and increasing awareness of services and programs available to address overall health and wellness, and making patient referrals to address tobacco cessation, good nutrition, and physical activity;

“(4) on when to refer patients to a health care provider with genetics expertise;

“(5) on how to provide counseling that addresses long-term survivorship and health concerns of young women diagnosed with breast cancer; and

“(6) on when to provide referrals to organizations and institutions that provide credible health information and substantive assistance and support to young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

“(c) Prevention Research Activities.—The Secretary, acting through—

“(1) the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall conduct prevention research on breast cancer in younger women, including—

“(A) behavioral, survivorship studies, and other research on the impact of breast cancer diagnosis on young women;

“(B) formative research to assist with the development of educational messages and information for the public, targeted populations, and their families about breast health, breast cancer, and healthy lifestyles;

“(C) testing and evaluating existing and new social marketing strategies targeted at young women; and

“(D) surveys of health care providers and the public regarding knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to breast health and breast cancer prevention and control in high-risk populations; and

“(2) the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall conduct research to develop and validate new screening tests and methods for prevention and early detection of breast cancer in young women.

“(d) Support for Young Women Diagnosed With Breast Cancer.—

“(1) In General.—The Secretary shall award grants to organizations and institutions to provide health information from credible sources and substantive assistance directed to young women diagnosed with breast cancer and pre-neoplastic breast diseases.

“(2) Priority.—In making grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that deal specifically with young women diagnosed with breast cancer and pre-neoplastic breast disease.

“(e) No Duplication of Effort.—In conducting an education campaign or other program under subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d), the Secretary shall avoid duplicating other existing Federal breast cancer education efforts.

“(f) Measurement; Reporting.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall—

“(1) measure—
“(A) young women’s awareness regarding breast health, including knowledge of family cancer history, specific risk factors and early warning signs, and young women’s proactive efforts at early detection;
“(B) the number or percentage of young women utilizing information regarding lifestyle interventions that foster healthy behaviors;
“(C) the number or percentage of young women receiving regular clinical breast exams; and
“(D) the number or percentage of young women who perform breast self exams, and the frequency of such exams, before the implementation of this section;
“(2) not less than every 3 years, measure the impact of such activities; and
“(3) submit reports to the Congress on the results of such measurements.
“(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘young women’ means women 15 to 44 years of age.
“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out subsections (a), (b), (c)(1), and (d), there are authorized to be appropriated $9,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.”