

6030 Daybreak Circle Suite A150-207 Clarksville, MD 21029

EIN: 84-4901951

Good afternoon. My name is Laura Crandon. I am a resident of Fulton, MD, a former health insurance executive, and a lifelong Maryland resident. I am founder of Touch4Life™, a 501(c)(3) non-profit headquartered in Clarksville, MD in Howard County Touch4Life is committed to Breast Health Equity. Our mission is to increase the breast health IQ of BIPOC and underserved communities and eliminate breast cancer outcomes disparities. Speaking of disparities, In August of 2015, I received a mammogram report of dense breasts. What I didn't know then but know now, is that dense breasts are a 2X risk factor for Black women; It means the radiologist can't see. Only 20% of Black women are referred for addi5ional screening including ultrasound or MRI, which is what should have happened for me. Instead, just 5 months later and 7 months before my next scheduled mammogram, I found a lump doing a selfexam in the shower. That turned out to be an aggressive form of triple posi5ive breast cancer, stage 2B. Had I been referred for additional screening ea4lier, I would have caught it ea4lier and pe4pahs it wouldn5't have returned 2 years later to metastasize to my brain. SB184 is a step in the right direction. However, other states such as CT and PA have much more comprehensive legislation to eliminate barriers to additional screening, biomarkers and genetic testing. I urge you to pass this bill and immediately begin wor4king on a successor to bring MD up to par such that no woman is left behind or dead because our coverage is inadequate because women like me are 41% more likely to die from breast cancer than our white sisters; 2X as likely to develop aggressive Triple Negative Breas5 Cancer under the age of 35, which is below the mammogram screening guideline; and 3 times more likely to die from breast cancer at a young age. Let's do something to change that grim statistic. SB184 is a start. Thank you.