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[H.R. 2722, Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act, as amended](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, July 14, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 2722](#), the *Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act, as amended*, under suspension of the rules. The bill was introduced on June 10, 2015, by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition, to the Committee on the Budget.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2722 directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins “emblematic of the fight against breast cancer.” The bill specifies size, weight, and content requirements, and authorizes the minting of up to 50,000 \$5 gold coins (must be made of “pink gold,” which contains at least 75 percent gold), up to 400,000 \$1 silver coins (must contain at least 90 percent silver), and up to 750,000 half-dollar coins. The coins will be issued as legal tender during calendar year 2018. The gold, silver, and half-dollar coins are to be sold with surcharges of \$35, \$10, and \$5, respectively.

The bill stipulates that the design of the coins will be selected based on a juried, compensated competition. The competition shall be judged by an expert panel chaired by the Secretary and consisting of 3 members from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and 3 members from the Commission of Fine Arts.

The bill requires the Secretary to ensure that minting and issuing these coins will not result in any net cost to the United States. After the U.S. Treasury recovers any costs associated with production of the coins, the Secretary will evenly distribute additional revenue from surcharges between the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, to be used in each case for breast cancer research.

BACKGROUND

According to the bill sponsor, “It is estimated that over 231,000 new cases of breast cancer will occur in the U.S. in 2015, and tragically 40,000 women will die from it . . . Breast cancer is the second

leading cause of cancer death in women, and the only way for us to eradicate it is through research to find a cure and increased awareness and screenings. There are only a handful of ways Congress can raise money to assist this fight at no cost to taxpayers and creating a commemorative coin is one. If we pass this bill, we can provide millions of dollars to raise awareness and accelerate research.”¹

In 1980, Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982 that promise became the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, which started with \$200 and a shoebox full of potential donor names and has now grown into the world’s largest nonprofit source of funding for the fight against breast cancer. To date, it has invested more than \$2.6 billion in groundbreaking research, community health outreach, advocacy, and programs in more than 30 countries.²

Since its founding in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) has raised more than half a billion dollars for lifesaving research. In 2014 and 2015, BCRF will award \$47 million in annual grants to over 235 scientists from top universities and medical institutions around the globe. In addition, \$11.6 million has been committed to the international [Founder’s Fund](#) project focused on metastasis.³

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is currently unavailable, but the bill is not expected to have a significant effect on direct spending.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [John Huston](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 6-5539.

¹ See Press Release, [“Congresswoman Maloney and Congressman Sessions unveil plan to raise millions for the fight against breast cancer.”](#) June 10, 2015

² See Susan G. Komen, [“About Us”](#)

³ See Breast Cancer Research Foundation, [“About BCRF”](#)