

# News Release

**Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connel**

300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850  
Sacramento, California 95814



Contact: *Byron Tucker, Michael Bustamante -- 310/342-5678*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CONNELL ISSUES "VETO ALERT"**

### *3 Days Remain In Governor's Threat To Kill AB 760*

SACRAMENTO, October 10, 1997 -- State Controller Kathleen Connell today issued an alert to supporters of a breast cancer treatment bill that has been targeted for veto by Governor Wilson.

"With three days remaining, I am hopeful that California women can appropriately celebrate National Breast Cancer Awareness Month by the governor signing AB 760 into law," said Connell. "Breast cancer is on the rise in California. Women facing this deadly disease are fighting daily for their lives and they need every available tool to aid them in their struggles. A veto of AB 760 would deprive women of lifesaving treatment and would be a cruel irony during this month of advocacy."

Connell was referring to a snapshot in today's *Los Angeles Times* that illustrates the increase in breast cancer cases in California. Sponsored by Connell and authored by Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), AB 760 would entitle a woman with breast cancer to a prompt, independent review following the denial of a physician-recommended treatment by her insurance company or HMO. If the independent review panel determines that the patient should receive the treatment, then the HMO or health insurer must cover it. Currently, many women must, and indeed have filed lawsuits to gain access to Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation (ABMT) therapy after being denied. AB 760 passed both the Assembly and Senate overwhelmingly and has been sitting on the Governor's desk since September 2.

Monday is the veto deadline. The governor has indicated his veto intentions to both Connell and Migden. This year alone, well over 20,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in California.

# # #