

RESOLUTION NO. 82 - 2022

RECOGNIZING and honoring Michele Young for her exceptional leadership as a tireless advocate, attorney, and breast cancer survivor who brought together legislators, survivors, and scientists to ensure that every Ohio woman has the right to early screening for breast cancer through the passage of Ohio House Bill 371, which requires coverage for advanced screenings and for screening decisions to be left to radiologists.

WHEREAS, in 2018, Michele Young was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, and after her diagnosis, she worked to change how women in Ohio were screened for breast cancer, which included changing Ohio laws that stopped women, especially those with dense breasts, from having access to the affordable screening technology that would have allowed for an early diagnosis and increased chance of survival; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute, more than 40% of women aged 40 and over have dense breast tissue, making it harder for doctors to detect breast cancer in mammograms, and before Michele's advocacy and leadership, many additional screenings other than a mammogram, including magnetic resonance imaging, were not covered by health insurance policies, and because of her tireless commitment to changing the status quo when an inequality is identified, Michele vowed to change this policy; and

WHEREAS, through her advocacy, Michele partnered with renowned physicians from UC Health: Dr. Elyse Lower, Dr. Mary Mahoney, and Dr. Annie Brown, breast cancer survivors, and Ohio State Representatives Jean Schmidt (R-Loveland) and Sedrick Denson (D-Cincinnati) who would eventually co-sponsor House Bill 371, and with the support of this all-star team, they advocated and helped shepherd Ohio House Bill 371 through the legislature; and to ensure the bill's passage and protect the lives of women for generations to come, Michele and this team advocated for months by delivering pink carnations throughout the Statehouse, testified before committees, and knocked on the doors of legislators to advocate for the bill's passage; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the work of Michele, UC Health, Representatives Jean Schmidt and Sedrick Denson, and countless others, this collaborative effort was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine June 24, 2022, ensuring that all women in Ohio have the right to: 1.) an annual mammogram, 2.) coverage of supplemental screenings, 3.) a clear notification of breast density and 4.) advanced screening decisions made by radiologists and not insurance; and House Bill 371 extends private insurance and Medicaid coverage to include 3D mammography (tomosynthesis) for breast cancer screening and one mammogram every year, removes age limitations for screening mammography, provides additional coverage for supplemental screening for women with dense breasts or additional risk factors, and improves the dense breast notification letter to patients; and

WHEREAS, Michele now celebrates three years of long-term complete remission and is determined to continue her advocacy with the additional time she has been granted, and Michele and her team at UC Health are on a mission to provide the right to early detection to all women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Michele joins breast cancer survivors Katie Couric and Kristen Dahlgren, who are also taking up the cause of early detection and sharing their stories in hopes of passing national legislation for every woman to be granted the right to lifesaving care; and Michele hopes to continue her work to make Ohio's breast cancer bill a national model, a policy change that could save the lives of more than 40,000 women, mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and friends every year; and

WHEREAS, Michele leads her life by serving others, and the City of Cincinnati recognizes the powerful and positive impact Michele has had in our community and throughout the state for women, families, and all those affected by a diagnosis of breast cancer through her advocacy as a friend and attorney, her leadership and tireless commitment to improving the health of our citizens and the health of women in the State of Ohio, and for her advocacy to expand House Bill 371 nationwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Michele Young for her many contributions to the City of Cincinnati, her tireless efforts to uplift our community, and her advocacy to improve the health of citizens of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, and nationwide.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to Michele Young by the Council Office of Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Passed: October 19, 2022



Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: 

Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney