

TO SENATOR

Contact: Senator Patty Murray

[www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/](http://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/)

Spokane Office:

10 North Post Street, Suite 600

Spokane, WA 99201

Subject: Please support efforts to preserve access to natural breast reconstruction

Dear Senator Murray,

I am writing to ask for your assistance in an important issue that has significant impact on women's health and cancer treatment. As you may be aware, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) plan to end coverage, as of December 2024, for procedure code S2068, which allows insurance reimbursement for the breast reconstruction surgery called DIEP flap. This decision has already had a devastating impact on women who are seeking breast reconstruction following a mastectomy, including myself.

As someone with ---- insert your story ---- I have made the difficult decision to undergo a bilateral {prophylactic} mastectomy with DIEP flap reconstruction. However, due to CMS guidance, my insurance provider will no longer cover the DIEP flap reconstruction surgery beginning ----. This leaves me and many other women with limited options for breast reconstruction surgery, as the remaining options may not meet our needs or preferences.

The benefits of the DIEP flap breast reconstruction are clear. It allows for a more natural reconstruction of the breast using a woman's own tissue, resulting in fewer complications and a better quality of life. Additionally, this type of surgery does not require the removal of any abdominal muscles, reducing the risk of long term complications and allowing women to lead an active and productive life.

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA) is a federal law that provides protection to patients who choose to have breast reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy. If an insurance company accepts payment for a mastectomy, it must provide the patient with breast reconstruction (for example, implants, going flat, or using the patient's own tissue to recreate the breast.) The amounts to numerous surgeries to restore symmetry, beauty, and self confidence to the patient.

I believe that access to quality breast reconstruction surgery should be a fundamental right for all women. I am asking for your help in advocating for the reinstatement of HCPCS code S2068 by CMS, which will help ensure greater access to women's choice in breast reconstruction.

I am grateful for your time and attention to this important matter. Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of women who are impacted by this change in CMS coverage.

Sincerely,

{ Your Name }