Breast cancer donation bill passes

A bill to allow voluntary contributions to two popular breast cancer research tax check-off funds passed unanimously out of the State Senate and is now headed to Governor Jerry Brown’s desk. The vote was 37-0. Senate Bill 1359, by State Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), would extend the voluntary contribution check-offs on state tax forms for the California Breast Cancer Research Program and the California Cancer Research Fund for five years. Without SB 1359, these popular check-offs would expire on January 1, 2013.

The California Breast Cancer Research Program, the largest state-funded research effort in the nation, leads innovations in research and education. Since 2008, the California Breast Cancer Research Program has brought in more than $2.5 million in funding through the state tax check-off. Since 2008, the California Cancer Research Fund tax check-off has brought in more than $1.3 million in funding.