

have served to improve the quality of living for thousands of Native American families and communities.

The ANA funding policy is to assist Indian Tribes and Native American organizations to plan and implement their own long-term strategies for social and economic development. The aim is to increase local productivity and reduce dependence on government social services. This legislation will extend until fiscal year 2000 the authorization for these modestly funded yet very successful programs to strengthen and rebuild tribal communities around the United States.

I wish to thank my good friends, Senator CAMPBELL, Senator INOUE and Senator MURKOWSKI for their efforts to extend the authorization for these valuable resources to improve opportunities for self-sufficiency for Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and other native peoples.

Mr. Speaker, the programs authorized in this measure are critical to fostering social and economic self-sufficiency—a goal shared by this Congress as we move toward greater fiscal responsibility in all American communities. I urge my colleagues to act favorably and expeditiously on this measure.

COMMEMORATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONROE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Monroe Township, New Jersey as they celebrate their 160th anniversary.

Monroe, named after our fifth president, James Monroe, became a township on February 23, 1838. The first people to inhabit the land were the Leni Lenape Indians, followed by those seeking religious freedom from England and Scotland who arrived in the mid-seventeenth century. Both groups were attracted to the area's fertile soil, abundant water and miles of woodland. When Monroe became a township 160 years ago, its population was only 2,435.

Over the past 160 years, Monroe has grown from a rural, farming area into an active residential and commercial community. But residents and visitors to this beautiful town can still enjoy its working horse and produce farms and plush woodlands. Monroe Township is the home of five large planned retirement communities where almost half of their population of roughly 27,000 people reside. It boasts a strong educational system, many parks and recreation facilities and a close-knit community atmosphere.

I wish to commend Monroe Township and all of the people of Monroe on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to have this great township within the borders of the twelfth congressional district.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. BILEY. Mr. Speaker, the attached letters are submitted for inclusion in the RECORD.

OCTOBER 6, 1998.

Hon. TOM BILEY, *Chairman, House Committee on Commerce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BILEY: On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), I am writing to thank you for your support and leadership in reauthorizing the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). By adopting national standards for the provision of mammography, the Congress has helped ensure that women get the highest quality screening.

We would also like to commend your leadership for working so hard to include a direct notification provision in this year's reauthorization. This is a very important issue for women. As you know, NBCC believes along with the Agency for Health Care and Policy Research (AHCPR) that the best public health policy is for women to receive direct written notification of the results of their mammogram. Direct notification will permit women to make informed medical decisions at a critical time.

Our experience as activists and consumers is that without a requirement that facilities provide direct written notification to patients—it won't always happen. Without direct reporting, some women, waiting to hear from their physician may make the tragic assumption that "no news is good news." It is for that reason that your leadership on including this requirement is so significant.

Thank you again for your commitment to this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to eradicate breast cancer.

Sincerely,

FRANCES M. VISCO,
President.

AUGUST 3, 1998.

Hon. TOM BILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BILEY: On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), I want to thank you for your leadership in the reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). This program, which establishes minimum national quality standards for mammography facilities and personnel as well as a rigorous annual inspection program to ensure those standards are being met, is an important component in the arsenal for fighting breast cancer.

The NBCC is extremely pleased that the Committee has included language that would require facilities to provide direct written notification of mammographic results to all patients. We join the Agency for Health Care Policy Research (AHCPR) and other experts and consumers in believing that direct notification is the best public policy.

We also understand that the bill includes language that would permit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct a limited demonstration project to determine the feasibility of inspecting high-performing mammography facilities on a less than annual basis. While we have concerns about

backing away from annual inspections, we have been working with the Committee to ensure that any demonstration project is done on a restricted basis with regard to the facilities that are selected for inclusion in the program. Moreover, the demonstration, not to begin before April 1, 2001, should be constructed with the utmost caution to ensure facilities continue to adhere to tough national mammography standards.

We look forward to working with the Committee to continue to find ways to improve the MQSA program. Thank you again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

FRAN VISCO,
President.

STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE BRUNSWICK, VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION, SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today. On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, I want to begin by thanking Chairman Bile, Chairman Bilirakis, and the Members of the House Commerce Committee for their leadership in reauthorizing H.R. 4382, the Mammography Quality Standards Act. MQSA establishes minimum national quality standards for mammography facilities and personnel and also includes a rigorous annual inspection program to ensure those standards are met. These are essential components in the fight against breast cancer.

H.R. 4382 improves mammography screening by providing all patients—for the first time ever—with direct written notification of their mammography test results. NBCC believes that women are entitled to know the results of their own mammograms and that they should not have to rely solely on their physicians to notify them of their results.

NBCC believes that written notification is the right public policy. It permits women to make informed medical decisions at a critical time. Public health organizations and consumer advocates have stressed consistently that women are entitled to know the results of their exams and that it is the facilities' responsibility to provide direct written notification of mammography results to all patients. For numerous reasons, many health care providers do not always communicate the results of mammograms to patients. And some women, waiting to hear from their physician, may make the tragic assumption that "no news is good news."

As the Mammography Quality Standards Act was originally adopted into law, there was already a requirement for self-referred women to be directly notified about the results of their mammography. Without a requirement that all patients are notified directly, the concern is that women may not hear about their mammography results until it's too late.

NBCC is not alone in supporting direct written notification. Based on extensive review of the literature, expert testimony, and contributions of an independent multidisciplinary panel of private-sector clinicians, other experts and consumers, the Agency for Health Care Policy Research (AHCPR) strongly recommended direct written notification in the Clinical Practice Guideline:

"Any written communication must have language that is carefully constructed to impart results without causing undue anxiety, to promote a relationship between the woman and health care provider, and to encourage the woman to take the next step."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stated that it "continues to believe that written notification of mammographic results is the most reliable way to guarantee

that each patient is notified of results and that any necessary follow up will occur," and that it "agrees with consumer groups that written notification of mammographic results represents the 'best practices' in ensuring that each and every woman is clearly and effectively notified of the results of her mammogram . . ."

I am here today on behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition to ask the Senate to adopt the re-authorized version of MQSA that has already been passed by the House. While the Senate re-authorized the MQSA (of 1992) last year, that legislation did not include a direct notification requirement. H.R. 4382 would require that written notification be provided to every patient in terms easily understood by the general public.

Our experience as activists and consumers is that without a requirement that facilities provide direct written notification to patients—it won't happen.

On behalf of NBCC, I am pleased to join Chairman Bliley, Chairman Bilirakis, and sponsors of H.R. 4382 in asking that the Senate pass the House passed MQSA reauthorization into law this year.

September 21, 1998.

Hon. THOMAS J. BILEY, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
U.S. House of Representatives.

Hon. MICHAEL BILIRAKUS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

DEAR GENTLEMEN: The National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO) is extremely grateful for your continued support of the National Mammography Quality Standards Act and efforts to assure its reauthorization as soon as possible. Additionally, we were pleased by the outcome of the Committee's August 5th deliberations and report including certain amendments, and have encouraged Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, and Mikulski to promote the adoption of the House language into the Senate bill. In our opinion, the House Commerce Committee's amendments offer strong enhancements to the original language of the Act and will benefit women throughout the country by further improving the quality of their mammography screening.

First, an increasing number of women are now receiving the results of their mammograms directly from their mammography provider, but it is not mandatory for the providers to do so in most cases. In the unanimous opinion of the Quality Determinants of Mammography Guideline Panel convened by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research "A report should be sent to the health care provider and results passed on to the woman." NABCO strongly supports every woman's right to receive the results of her screening mammogram directly, in a timely manner, and in language that is meaningful to her.

Second, although the implementation of the Act is not yet fully realized, lessons learned from the on-site inspection process highlight the opportunity to improve on the efficiencies of resources dedicated to assuring the high standards of mammography quality the Congress intended. To that end, we support the concept of demonstration projects which will provide further analysis of the relationship between duration and frequency of those on-site inspections.

Finally, the provision strengthening the independent and objective role of reviewing mammographers lends further credence to the specific training they receive, which women want, deserve and expect from facilities certified by the Federal Government.

Many thanks for your support of the breast cancer cause. Please do not hesitate to con-

tact us if we may be of assistance in any breast cancer issues that come before you.

Sincerely,

KIMBERLY CALDER,
MPS, Associate Executive Director.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1998.

Hon. TOM BILEY,
Chairman, House Commerce Committee,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BILEY: We want to thank you and the other cosponsors of the Mammography Quality Standards Act for legislation that offers millions of Americans a greater measure of hope as we confront the battle against breast cancer. The House acted wisely when it passed your bill.

It is our sincere hope the Senate will act quickly to pass the House version. While the Senate bill also takes steps to advance mammography standards, it does not include the direct notification provisions in the House version. Personal notification of test results in terms women can understand can help save lives and should be part of final legislation. We urge Congress to pass a final bill this session.

Thank you for your concern and efforts on this important issue of public health.

Sincerely,

SUSAN N. NATHANSON, PH.D.,
Executive Director,
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization.

STATEMENT BY JENNIE R. COOK, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY BOARD CHAIR, ON PENDING ACTION ON THE MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS ACT

"Good afternoon. I'm Jennie Cook, Chairman of the National Board for the American Cancer Society. Let me first begin by saying that it is an honor to be here today with so many distinguished members of Congress. On behalf of the American Cancer Society, I want to thank the U.S. Congress for all efforts to promote the highest standards in quality mammography. I also want to thank Chairman Bliley and Representative Bilirakis and many other key members of the committee for making this event possible. Without their leadership, we wouldn't be here today.

"One of the first lines of defense in the fight against breast cancer has been to encourage screening, earlier diagnosis and prompt appropriate treatment. The American Cancer Society strongly believes that every woman in this country has a right to a mammogram of the highest standards of quality, and we are committed to seeing that all women have access to high quality mammography, as well as other medical interventions that have been convincingly shown to reduce morbidity and mortality from breast cancer.

"The five-year survival rate for a woman with localized breast cancer has risen to about 97 percent today, largely through the advent of early detection of the disease. The potential for early detection to be effective is an empty promise if the quality of mammography is low. Since early detection is so important, all women should feel confident that mammography facilities in their communities achieve high standards. Just last week, the U.S. House of Representatives helped make this goal achievable through the continuation of Mammography Quality Standards Act.

"The Mammography Quality Standards Act, or MQSA, represents an important milestone in the fight against breast cancer. Women can now continue to have confidence in the quality of their mammograms because mammography facilities are being certified

in accordance with federal standards. The re-authorization process made it possible to enhance MQSA—to make it even better than it was the first time around. We are especially pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives included a provision to directly notify women of their mammogram results in easy-to-understand language—which is a top priority of the American Cancer Society.

"Consumer and public health advocates have consistently stressed that communicating mammography results directly to women is a vital component of medical care and a necessary quality standard. Women are entitled to timely, accurate and easily understood information about the results of their mammograms. Studies have shown that women believe their mammography results are normal if they are not contacted after their examination. If in fact the information about a suspicious mammogram has fallen through the cracks, appropriate follow-up care is often unnecessarily postponed. A delay in diagnosis due to poor communication can have adverse consequences for women and their doctors. For women, it can mean fewer treatment options and reduced chances at survival. For physicians, communication failures represent system failures and, consequently, failures to meet the needs of their patients. Thus, direct notification establishes that the interpreting physician, the referring physician and the woman all play a role in ensuring that appropriate follow-up takes place.

"Once again, on behalf of the American Cancer Society, I want to thank the U.S. Congress for taking up this important legislation, and I urge the U.S. Senate to pass HR 4382 in time for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October."

FISH AND WILDLIFE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. It's essentially identical to one (H.R. 2291) I introduced last year to improve the ability of the Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out its responsibilities in Colorado and around the country. I'm glad my colleague Senator ALLARD chose to carry the bill in the Senate.

The Service is responsible for storage and disposal of a great variety of fish and wildlife and wildlife-related items that come into federal ownership under a variety of laws.

Hundreds of thousands of these items are collected at two facilities in Commerce City, Colorado. Most are in the National Wildlife Property Repository, while dead eagles and eagle parts (including feathers) go to the National Eagle Repository.

From the general repository, the Service makes many items available to other agencies and to museums, zoos, schools and colleges for scientific, education, and official purposes. From the Eagle Repository, eagles and eagle parts are made available to Native Americans for religious purposes.

These distributions meet a real need. In 1996, the eagle repository filled more than 1,300 requests, while between July, 1995 and February, 1997 more than 5,700 items were shipped from the general repository to organizations around the nation.