

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 565) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 565

Whereas 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime;

Whereas nearly 180,000 American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and nearly 44,000 women will die of the disease;

Whereas breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death of women between the ages of 40 and 55;

Whereas it is universally recognized that regular mammograms are the best way to detect breast cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages, and that mammograms can detect small breast cancers up to 2 years earlier than they can be detected through self-examination;

Whereas early detection, including regular mammography screening with prompt treatment, could result in one-third fewer breast cancer deaths among women over age 50;

Whereas the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute recognize that regular mammograms are beneficial to women in their forties and recommend that women begin mammography screening by age 40;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined in 1995 that nearly half of American women age 50 and older, and more than one-third of American women age 40 to 49, had not received a mammogram in the previous year;

Whereas annual mammograms are essential in early detection of breast cancer, and biopsies are the only way to diagnose or rule out breast cancer with certainty;

Whereas it is vital that women have information about breast biopsy and the biopsy options that are available to them;

Whereas cutting-edge technology in women's health is creating more options for women; and

Whereas greater awareness of the importance of mammograms leads to more mammograms and biopsies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all American women should take an active role in the fight against breast cancer by all the means that are available to them, including self-examination, physician examination, and regular mammograms;

(2) the role played by community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of the importance of regular mammograms and of biopsy options and in helping to expand the availability of low-cost mammograms and biopsies should be recognized and applauded; and

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about the importance of the early detection (through

mammography and biopsy) and prompt treatment of breast cancer;

(B) continue to fund research so that the causes of and a cure for breast cancer may be discovered; and

(C) continue to make mammograms and biopsies more widely available to women over 40.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 565, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer. I salute the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) for this commendable resolution.

According to the General Accounting Office's testimony this past May before the Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed nonskin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women. Experts estimate that during the 1990s, as many as 1.8 million women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 500,000 will die from it. According to 1997 data, an estimated 44,000 women died from breast cancer, and an estimated 180,200 new cases of the disease were diagnosed.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember that these women are not mere numbers. They are mothers, daughters, friends, and colleagues. Breast cancer has struck the families of my staff. It has even struck my own wife.

The fact that 1 in 9 women will develop breast cancer at some point in their lives is a frightening prospect, but there is hope. Awareness leads to vigilance, which leads to early detection. This resolution before us helps build the awareness needed to survive.

As my own family found out, the probability of survival, as well as the use of breast-conserving therapy and the avoidance of mastectomy increases significantly when the disease is discovered in its early stages. Currently, the most effective technique for early detection of breast cancer is screening mammography, an X-ray procedure that can detect small tumors and breast abnormalities up to 2 years before they can be detected by touch, and

over 90 percent of these early-stage cancers can be cured, according to the FDA.

The use of mammography as a tool for detecting early cancer continues to increase. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the proportion of women aged 50 and older who had received mammograms in the prior year increased from 26 percent in 1987 to 57 percent in 1995. The proportion of women 40 to 49 who had received mammograms in the past 2 years also increased from 59 percent in 1990 to 66 percent in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that our committee has done more than simply build awareness about this dreaded disease. Just 3 weeks ago on September 15, the House joined unanimously the Committee on Commerce in passing H.R. 4382, the Bliley-Bilirakis Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 1998. This bill will assure the safety, accuracy and overall quality in mammography services for the early detection of breast cancer. Women who seek mammograms, however, must be assured that their results will be accurate and not misleading.

Bliley-Bilirakis provides for direct patient notification of all mammography examinations in writing, and in easily understood terms so that women are fully aware of their results. As the August 4 joint letter of endorsement from the American Cancer Society, the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations and the Susan Gomen Breast Cancer Foundation states, "Studies have shown that women believe their mammography results are normal if they are not contacted after their examination. An increasing number of mammography facilities have begun to report both normal and abnormal findings directly to the women as well as her referring physician, without disrupting the relationships with her referring provider."

The other body passed Bliley-Bilirakis without amendment. It has languished on the President's desk for a full week now. It merits his signature.

Mr. Speaker, the month of October is breast cancer awareness month. Today is a fitting day for the House of Representatives to add its voice to the voice of many other dedicated citizens in this country to express the importance of early mammographies and biopsies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 565. As we all know, breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death among women in this country. By combining early detection of breast cancer with prompt treatment, we can reduce the number of deaths by as much as one-third.

Although these facts are known, only half of all women over the age of 50 and

one-third of women over the age of 40 have had a mammogram in the past year. We should actively push the benefits of mammography and increase its availability. I applaud the organizations that have already been active in promoting breast cancer awareness and the benefits of early detection.

Mr. Speaker, a short time ago, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) mentioned, this Congress passed the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 1998. This bill assured the continuation of a program for ensuring mammography quality and making sure that all women are notified of those test results. H. Res. 565 complements this legislation by recognizing the need for greater awareness among women of the need to have regular mammograms.

While I am pleased to support H. Res. 565, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not remark for the need of more substantive legislation in this area. The Patients' Bill of Rights would have improved women's access to, and quality of, health care. I lament the fact that this Congress will fail to pass meaningful managed care reforms to stop HMO abuses.

Other legislation upon which I fear this Congress may fail to act this year would expand Medicaid coverage for breast and cervical cancer treatment. Reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control programs affecting women also unfortunately have languished in this Congress.

In sum, however, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 565. I also urge my colleagues to begin work on all the remaining facets of women's health care as soon as possible next year, and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) for his good work.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN), an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), and I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his great work on a resolution that we believe will help save the lives of women all over this country. I want to thank particularly, though, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for enabling this resolution to come very quickly to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bass resolution because of the impact it will have on the quality of life of America's women. Since October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it is imperative that we seize this opportunity to encourage women to take an active role in combating a disease that takes the lives of thousands of women every single year.

While we have seen tremendous progress in the early detection, diag-

nosis and treatment of breast cancer, there is still a great deal more work to be done. This year, approximately 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed, and almost 44,000 women will die from this disease.

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That is why it is vital now, more than ever, for us to continue educating women about mammograms and about biopsies. By emphasizing the importance of mammograms and biopsies, the Bass resolution builds on the continuing efforts of those who work so very hard to promote the importance of early detection and early diagnosis in the fight against this devastating disease.

Mr. Speaker, one of my dear friends was diagnosed with breast cancer over a decade ago. She is living a healthy, productive life today because she conquered her illness, but her cancer was not detected early. Back then, only 10 years ago, women had mammograms less frequently, and she discovered the lump in her breast after it had been developing for almost 2 years.

She is a breast cancer survivor because of her own mental strength and her determination and the quality care that she received from her doctors. She was very fortunate, and for that I am thankful. But Mr. Speaker, other women may not be so fortunate.

Early detection and diagnosis through mammography and biopsy remain our best weapons against breast cancer. The Bass resolution stresses the value of regular self-examinations and mammograms in detecting breast abnormalities, and the necessity of breast biopsies in diagnosing if the abnormality is cancerous or noncancerous.

Through our efforts to raise awareness about mammograms and the other biopsy options that are available, women will have the tools to make well-informed decisions when it comes to breast care.

Congress continues to improve the quality of life for American women. As a result of the good work of the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY), we are now able to ensure that women have access to the highest quality medical equipment to detect breast cancer at the earliest possible moment, and women now will be able to receive their mammogram results in a clear and comprehensible form.

Congress is also continuing to invest in research that saves lives. We are working to double the funding for the National Institutes of Health over the next 8 years, because their research has produced major advances in the treatment of cancer and disease that affect the lives of women in America.

The Bass resolution complements these efforts to ensure that mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives will not be limited by breast cancer, but will be free to pursue their hopes and dreams, living healthy and productive lives. I ask my colleagues to support this vitally important resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), the original sponsor of this bill.

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the breast cancer awareness resolution, which is quite similar to one I introduced last year. I do want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for their crucial help in bringing this resolution to the floor this evening.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN), whose partnership on this resolution has been absolutely invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, we should all know by now that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and October 16 is National Mammography Day. It is, therefore, fitting that the House should come together today to pass the resolution that is before us now.

This breast cancer awareness resolution encourages women to take a proactive role in fighting breast cancer through steps like seeking regular mammograms, and following up on those mammograms with biopsies, if necessary. It recognizes and applauds the important role played by community organizations and health care providers in promoting awareness of these services and affordable access to them.

Finally, it acknowledges the responsibility of the Federal Government to be an active participant in efforts to fight breast cancer, from working to promote awareness and access to services to continuing its support for vital medical research.

In recent years, there has been important progress on all of these fronts. On a local level, events like Race for the Cure and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walkathons that have occurred all over the country, which I participated in last week, have helped raise awareness of the dangers of this disease and support for finally finding a cure.

Congress has also made important contributions, including Medicare coverage for mammograms last year, and, as was mentioned by our chairman, the reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act.

Yet, despite progress in encouraging early detection and treatment and funding medical research, much more remains to be done. This year alone, nearly 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in this country, and 44,000 will die from this terrible disease.

Twenty-seven years ago, when I was 19 years old, or 28 years ago, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she died at the age of 51. There were no strides for cancer awareness,

there were no support groups. Indeed, there was very little understanding of what she faced. Unfortunately, I think she faced this disease with fright, with pain, and sometimes with great loneliness.

What we have done in those 26 years is really quite extraordinary, but there is a lot more work ahead of us. I want to see a world for my wife and my daughter, Lucy, that will be better than it was for my mother.

I thank the chairman of the committee from the bottom of my heart for making this resolution in order tonight, and bringing the importance of breast cancer awareness to the public forefront.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman, and salute him for bringing this resolution to the floor. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for the work that they have done, and the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS), who is the originator, who introduced this legislation this year as well as last year.

It is true, this is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October. If we look back we can see that we have made great strides, but we still have that figure of 180,000 women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and 44,000 who will die of breast cancer.

I have been involved every year with the Race for the Cure, and I must say, to reflect on progress, I look around when we have the 50,000 people who are out there, men as well as women, ready to march for research and education and prevention of breast cancer, and I see those pink hats. Pink hats means they are survivors, and there are more and more survivors. Why? Because of mammograms, because of biopsies, because of education, because of awareness. I think this Congress has been really moving ahead in this particular area.

For instance, I am proud that the National Institutes of Health now has an Office of Research on Women's Health, and we are putting more and more money into breast cancer research and education and prevention.

I am also very proud of our Department of Defense. Many times we do not realize that the Department of Defense appropriation has money in for peer-reviewed breast cancer research, and they have done some wonderful things, because they have great clinical trials where they can come up with some great revelations and great advances on it.

Then, just the other day, as has been mentioned, the Mammography Standards Act not only reauthorizes that for the highest quality of mammograms, but also has the notification facet of it,

something that is greatly needed. Again, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) was a great leader in that particular regard.

I just also want to point out the partnerships that have been occurring, not only with the Department of Defense and NIH, the private sector, NASA, working together to heighten the accuracy of our mammograms, to also have mobile units which they bring in to rural areas and areas of people who have low income, so they can have the finest digital imaging technology available for them.

So we can do a great deal through education, through further research, through making people aware of the advances that are being made, and the continued commitment of this Congress.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), my final speaker.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of House Resolution 565, expressing the critical need for mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer. I commend the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for bringing this important bill to the House floor.

Breast cancer, by any definition, is an epidemic in our country. It is reported that every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with this disease, and every 11 minutes a woman dies from it. As has been said, more than 44,000 women die from breast cancer. These women are our mothers, spouses, siblings, children, and our friends, the people we love the most.

The numbers are especially alarming in my own State of New Jersey, which has the second highest breast cancer mortality rate of any State in the Nation. The American Cancer Society estimates 6,400 new cases of breast cancer in New Jersey in 1997, and an estimated 1,800 deaths. I have found, and certainly the people who work on behalf of the American Cancer Society, that more than ever, many of these victims are young women.

While we have made some strides in raising awareness about the need for early detection and some strides in research, we still do not have a cure, nor do we know what causes this devastating disease. That is why more emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of mammograms to assist in the fight against this disease.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, I am pleased that the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) have done so much to bring this resolution to the floor. I commend their efforts. It is something which all Members should support.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JON D. FOX IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 565—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAMS AND BIOPSIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 565 which stresses the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer.

More women in the United States are diagnosed with breast cancer every year than any other cancer except skin cancer. This year, about 180,000 cases will be diagnosed and about 44,000 women will die of this disease. Many of these lives could have been saved by early diagnosis.

The earlier breast cancer is detected, the easier it is to treat. Every woman is at risk for breast cancer, and the risks increase with age. That means women under 40 should have a mammogram every three years and women over 40 every year. Routine screening mammography is the single most effective method to detect breast changes that may be cancer, long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt. That is why this legislation is so important.

We need to give women a chance. We need them to have access to the vital tools to detect this deadly disease early. We need these women to survive and win their fights by early detection.

I strongly support this Resolution. And I thank the Gentleman for offering this Resolution which stresses the importance of diagnosing and treating this disease in the early stages. We can win this fight.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 565.

The question was taken.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further a message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 442. An act to establish a national policy against State and local government interference with interstate commerce on the Internet or interactive computer services, and to exercise congressional jurisdiction over interstate commerce by establishing a moratorium on the imposition of exactions that would interfere with the free flow of commerce via the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 2584. An act to provide aviator continuation pay for military members killed in Operation Desert Shield.