

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 368

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the inclusion in any comprehensive benefits package under health care reform of mammography screenings for women under the age of 50.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1994

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. VUCANOVICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the inclusion in any comprehensive benefits package under health care reform of mammography screenings for women under the age of 50.

Whereas breast cancer is a substantial public health problem in the United States, and the incidence and prevalence of this cancer is increasing;

Whereas breast cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in women between the ages of 15 and 54, particularly in African-American and Hispanic women;

Whereas, in 1992 alone, 40,000 cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in women under 50, of which 28,900 cases were diagnosed in women between the ages of 40 and 49;

Whereas the risk of breast cancer increases significantly at age 40;

Whereas, in 1992, the difference between the incidence of breast cancer in women in their forties and women in their fifties amounted to a difference of only 1 percent of all breast cancer cases;

Whereas there has been a 2.5 percent increase in the breast cancer mortality rate of premenopausal African-American women, and experts believe that the increase is significantly influenced by the lack of access to early detection and health care;

Whereas the 5-year survival rates for low-income women with breast cancer are 9 percent lower than the rates for upper-income women;

Whereas the National Cancer Advisory Board of the National Cancer Institute voted 14 to 1 that the Institute's guidelines recommending mammography screenings for women between the ages of 40 and 49 should remain in place because the science is inconclusive to support any changes at this time;

Whereas mammography is among the most effective and widely available methods of early detection;

Whereas the Special Commission on Breast Cancer (formed by the President's Cancer Panel) found that earlier detection increases the likelihood of reducing mortality;

Whereas such Special Commission concluded that the failure of health care providers to recommend mammography is a major cause of poor utilization of mammography screening;

Whereas the Special Commission concluded that health care reform must ensure the removal of financial barriers to access to early detection and screening; and

Whereas the Special Commission recommended that further studies be conducted to determine the mortality benefit of screenings in women between the ages of 40 and 49; Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) any comprehensive benefits package under
4 health care reform should include mammography
5 screenings—

6 (A) for women between the ages of 40 and
7 49 (as well as for women over the age of 49);
8 and

9 (B) for women under the age of 40 who
10 are at high risk for breast cancer or whose phy-
11 sician determines that it is medically necessary
12 or appropriate;

13 (2) a copayment should be imposed for mam-
14 mography screening under such benefits package,
15 except for low-income families; and

16 (3) although it is currently prudent for such
17 package to include mammography screenings for
18 women between the ages of 40 and 49, the Public
19 Health Service, in conjunction with national and
20 international cancer research centers, should imme-

1 diately undertake a randomized clinical trial to de-
2 termine the effectiveness and benefits of mammog-
3 raphy and other emerging screening technologies for
4 such women.

