

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 220

Expressing the sense of the Congress on the need for accurate guidelines for breast cancer screening for women ages 40–49.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 1994

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress on the need for accurate guidelines for breast cancer screening for women ages 40–49.

Whereas the National Cancer Institute is the lead Federal agency for research on the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer;

Whereas health professionals and consumers throughout the Nation regard their guidelines as reliable scientific and medical advice;

Whereas it has been proven that intervention with routine screening for breast cancer with mammography can save women's lives at a time when we are unable to prevent this disease;

Whereas there are limitations to evaluating the efficacy of mammography in a 5–10 year age range of women in existing studies designed to test mortality reduction from breast cancer in a 25–30 year age range;

Whereas there were numerous shortcomings in a Canadian study designed to address mortality reduction from breast cancer in the 40–49 age range;

Whereas to date, it is not possible to have the same degree of scientific confidence about the benefit of mammography for women ages 40–49 as exists for women ages 50–69 due to inherent limitations in the studies that have been conducted;

Whereas meta-analysis (combining the results of several studies) is sometimes useful, the studies used to reach the National Cancer Institute's conclusions were not easily combined because of variations in design, technology, screening interval, the inclusion or exclusion of clinical breast examination and quality;

Whereas the existing clinical trial data are inadequate to provide a definite answer to the efficacy of early detection in the 40–49 age group and there has been a dramatic change in technology during the 30-year period since the initiation of the first study of breast cancer screening;

Whereas approximately 80 percent of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer have “no” identifiable risk for this disease;

Whereas breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women in the age group 15–54;

Whereas the American Cancer Society and 21 other national medical organizations, health and consumer groups are at variance with the recently rescinded guideline of the Na-

tional Cancer Institute for mammography for women ages 40–49; and

Whereas the statement on breast cancer screening issued by the National Cancer Institute on December 3, 1993, will cause widespread confusion and concern among women and physicians, erode confidence in mammography and reinforce barriers and negative attitudes that keep women of all ages from being screened: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) adequately designed and conducted studies
4 are needed to determine the benefit of screening
5 women ages 40–49 through mammography and
6 other emerging technologies;

7 (2) the National Cancer Institute’s guidelines
8 on breast cancer screening should clearly state that
9 the uncertainty of evidence for women in this age
10 group is due to the limitations of existing studies;
11 and

12 (3) the National Cancer Institute should re-
13 scind its recent statement for mammography screen-
14 ing of women ages 40–49, and continue to issue
15 guidelines when clear evidence warrants a change.

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