

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 48

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the need for further studies and accurate guidelines regarding the use of mammograms and other technology to screen women between the ages of 40 and 49 for breast cancer.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1997

Ms. DUNN (for herself, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. MOLINARI, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mrs. FOWLER, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mrs. CARSON, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FROST, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KING, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. GRANGER, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. NETHERCUTT, and Mr. RAMSTAD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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# RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the need for further studies and accurate guidelines regarding the use of mammograms and other technology to screen women between the ages of 40 and 49 for breast cancer.

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 United States regard the guidelines of the National Cancer Institute as reliable scientific and medical advice;

Whereas it has been proven that routine screening for breast cancer using mammograms can save the lives of women;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute issued a guideline in 1989 recommending that women between the ages of 40 and 49 have mammograms, but rescinded this guideline in 1993;

Whereas in 1993, it was difficult to have the same degree of scientific confidence about the benefit of mammograms for women between the ages of 40 and 49 as existed for women between the ages of 50 and 69 due to inherent limitations in the studies that had been conducted as of that date;

Whereas in 1993, the American Cancer Society and 21 other national medical organizations and health and consumer groups were at variance with the decision of the National Cancer Institute to rescind the guidelines of the Institute recommending that women between the ages of 40 and 49 have mammograms;

Whereas the statement of scientific fact on breast cancer screening issued by the National Cancer Institute on December 3, 1993, caused widespread confusion and concern among women and physicians, eroded confidence in mammograms, and reinforced barriers and negative attitudes that keep women of all ages from having mammograms;

Whereas in 1995, investigators found a 24 percent lower death rate among women who received mammograms

when they were between the ages of 40 and 49 when the world's population-based trials were combined;

Whereas in 1996, Swedish researchers announced the results of 2 studies which found that a 44 and 36 percent lower death rate among women who received mammograms between the ages of 40 and 49;

Whereas a number of studies have shown that breast tumors in women under the age of 50 may grow far more rapidly than breast tumors in older women, suggesting that annual mammograms are of value to women between the ages of 40 and 49;

Whereas on January 23, 1997, a panel convened by the National Institutes of Health reviewed these and other compelling studies but decided not to recommend that the National Cancer Institute reissue its earlier guidelines;

Whereas the Director of the National Cancer Institute and other major national organizations, including the American Cancer Society, expressed surprise and disappointment with this decision;

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

Whereas breast cancer is the single leading cause of death for women in their forties and fifties, and is a leading cause of death for women between the ages of 30 and 60; and

Whereas more women between the ages of 40 and 49 will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year than will women in their fifties: Now, therefore, be it

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

1           (1) adequately designed and conducted studies  
2       are needed to further determine the benefits of  
3       screening women between the ages of 40 and 49 for  
4       breast cancer through the use of mammograms and  
5       other emerging technologies; and

6           (2) the House of Representatives strongly urges  
7       the Advisory Panel for the National Cancer Institute  
8       to—

9           (A) consider reissuing the guideline re-  
10       scinded in 1993 recommending mammograms  
11       for women between the ages of 40 and 49 when  
12       it convenes in February 1997; or

13          (B) direct the public to consider guidelines  
14       issued by other organizations regarding the  
15       benefits of mammograms for women between  
16       the ages of 40 and 49 until there is more defin-  
17       itive data concerning this health issue.

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