

know how to detect the early warning signs, or to perform a routine self-exam. Too many women living with the disease are not aware of the treatment options available to them. Breast Cancer Awareness Month offers a special opportunity to focus public attention on various treatment options, and offer more women information that is vital to their well being.

This week, the Caucus for Women's Issues will be sending a strong signal to the administration on the importance of increased awareness. I have agreed to join my colleagues in signing a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Shalala, which calls for a "blueprint for action" to provide women with information on treatment options. The information campaign that we are recommending would serve to reduce the dramatic disconnect between the type of treatment women say they prefer and that which they currently receive. It is time to get the message out that there are viable alternatives to the mastectomy procedure.

Through information we can help women learn to detect breast cancer in its early and most treatable stages. Through information we can enlighten those who have already been diagnosed as to their options. Through research we move closer both to understanding the causes of breast cancer and to finding a cure. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a step in this direction, but as this month draws to a close I would like to encourage continued focus throughout our Nation on breast cancer and its treatment.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is a month dedicated to increasing American's awareness of the importance of early detection and diagnosis in the fight against breast cancer. Mr. Speaker, according to the National Cancer Institute Nassau and Suffolk Counties rank first and fourth, respectively, in breast cancer mortality rates among the 116 largest counties in the United States. This staggering statistic cannot be ignored. Too many of our mothers, daughters, and sisters have been afflicted with this destructive disease and it is important that we educate women on the importance of self-checks and mammograms in order to combat the high incidence of breast cancer.

Long Island has some of the highest rates of breast cancer in the Nation and a high death rate among women diagnosed with breast cancer in Nassau and Suffolk County. The Long Island Breast Cancer Study Project will look at exposures to contaminated drinking water, sources of air pollution, electromagnetic fields, pesticides and other toxic chemicals, and hazardous and municipal waste. Research is a valuable instrument in trying to understand this devastating disease.

Mr. Speaker, over this past year I have had the honor of working with Diane Nannery, a resident of Manorville and breast cancer survivor, on increasing breast cancer awareness across the country. Working together with thousands of concerned women in Suffolk County, we were successful in getting a breast cancer awareness stamp to be created by the United States Postal Service for 1996. The breast cancer awareness stamp will serve as a constant reminder to all Americans of the urgency for awareness of this terrible disease. Every time a book of stamps is purchased at the post office, people will be reminded of the urgency for early detection of breast cancer in

order to save millions of women's lives. The stamp will be printed sometime next summer.

Mr. Speaker, in 1996, approximately 184,300 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed and 44,300 women will die from this disease. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is dedicated to those who have survived breast cancer and those who have not. It is a time to make America aware of breakthroughs in breast cancer treatment, research, and testing. I am honored to have spoken before this body on the importance of awareness in battling breast cancer, and my heart goes out to those families who have lost a loved one to this destructive disease.

Mr. STOKES. Madam Speaker, I rise in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In recognition of this occasion, I ask my colleagues to take time out to assess the impact that this devastating disease has had on their constituents, colleagues, families, and friends—for no one is immune to this life threatening disease.

According to the American Cancer Society, over 180,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, approximately 1 every 3 minutes. One person will be diagnosed with breast cancer just during the time span of my statement. Even more devastating, 44,000 women and 300 men are expected to die from the disease. Among women, breast cancer is the most common cancer.

While breast cancer mortality rates have declined 5.5 percent from 1989 to 1992, due to advances in therapy and screening programs, this decline was only seen among whites. Breast cancer deaths for African-American females increased 2.6 percent. We must find the cure for and cause of the mortality differential for this devastating disease. Equally important, we must ensure that all Americans benefit from advances in breast cancer biomedical research, treatment, diagnosis, early detection, and prevention. Early detection is key to increasing the chance of cure and the benefits from more effective treatment options for the disease.

Madam Speaker, while our and our colleagues' families continue to have access to life saving screening, treatment, and prevention health care services for breast cancer, just a few days ago, here in this House, our Republican colleagues celebrated the passage of their legislation to strip those same critical life saving health care services away from millions of families by dismantling Medicaid and Medicare. That unconscionable act will have a negative impact on the progress the Nation has begun to make in ensuring that all women receive early diagnosis, screening, and appropriate treatment for breast cancer.

My heart goes out to the Nation's health care organizations and the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who have worked long and hard to achieve that progress. I applaud their steadfast leadership and commitment to expediting the search for a cure. I ask that they lend their support to me and my colleagues who are working to overturn the Republican assault on the health of the American people. It is just inhumane to force families to see their loved ones go without the critical health care services that they so desperately need.

Madam Speaker, all women must have access to the life saving screening and treatment they need to conquer breast cancer.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that is of deep

concern to all Americans. Breast cancer is a dreaded and devastating disease which has reached epidemic proportions. Currently, there are 2.6 million women living with breast cancer in the United States. In 1995 alone, an estimated 182,000 new cases will be diagnosed and over 46,000 women will die of this disease.

In the past 5 years, breast cancer research has received strong congressional support. As I noted earlier this year, I am proud, as chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus Task Force on Women's Health, that we have increased research funding by 65 percent. We have begun to make important progress including the discovery of a breast cancer gene, the declining mortality rates for some segments of the population and Medicare coverage of mammograms for early detection.

Despite the progress we have made in the past 5 years, our work is not done. There is still no cure for breast cancer, there is no way to prevent it, and the treatments available continue to be invasive and damaging to the women undergoing them.

It is therefore of utmost importance that we reaffirm our commitment to further breast cancer research. Too many women still suffer and die and too many families are left struggling with their loss.

Today, on the final day of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we remember all the women, men and children whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. This year, I have lost two young friends to this disease and while their loss can never be compensated, I can and do pledge to work to ensure the Federal commitment remains strong and that we continue to devote all possible resources to winning the battle against this disease.

SERIOUS QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED BEFORE WE COMMIT TROOPS TO BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PRYCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I am taking time tonight, along with some of my colleagues, to talk about what I fear could become one of the most serious foreign policy blunders in memory.

Yesterday this House sent a resounding message to President Clinton. The message was simple: Do not send American ground troops to Bosnia without the approval of Congress. And I want to point out to those critics in the administration that this was a bipartisan message. Three hundred fifteen Members, including half of the President's own party in this body, voted in favor of this sense-of-the-House resolution.

Yesterday's vote was a first step, and I want to emphasize first step, in this matter, and now I am confident that this House will take even stronger action in the coming days. Our colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] and the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER], have introduced a binding legislative bill that will require the Clinton administration to seek the authorization of Congress before deploying any ground troops

into Bosnia. We are not talking politics here, as much as the President would like to make this a partisan issue. We are talking about Congress' plenary control of the power of the purse and its moral obligation to address this fundamental policy issue. I fully expect this House to exercise its constitutional authority in the very near future.

Madam Speaker, many of us in the Congress have a number of very serious questions we would like the Clinton administration to answer, and to date those answers have been few and far between. For instance, what kind of risk to our troops are we talking about? What is this operation going to cost in terms of American lives? Almost certainly there will be casualties in that treacherous and mountainous region of the world.

I explicitly asked the Vice President for the administration's casualty estimates weeks ago, but I have not yet received an answer, not one word, from the administration on this matter. What is it going to cost in terms of taxpayer dollars? And where is the money going to come from? What are the rules of engagement? What happens the first time a stray bullet hits an American peacekeeper? What is the exit strategy?

Madam Speaker, Secretaries Christopher and Perry insist that troops will be home in a year. Few believe that, but, if so, then what? An outbreak of lasting peace in the Balkans? If you believe that, I have got a bridge I would like to sell to you.

These are critical questions, and the answers, are not forthcoming from the White House.

Now I would submit that there is a reason that those answers have not been forthcoming. The reasons is that there is no clear mission. President Clinton mistakenly, and apparently without consulting anybody in Congress, promised to send American ground troops to Bosnia in the event of a peace agreement. If he had bothered to ask, somebody would have told him that the last three peace agreements in Bosnia have been dismal failures and that the presence of American troops in that troubled region would likely do little to improve the attitudes of the warring parties.

Does President Clinton have the support of the American people in this instance? Absolutely not. I have received numerous calls and letters in my particular district in Cincinnati from people who have urged me to prevent United States troops from going in on the ground in Bosnia. I am still waiting for one call or one letter from anybody who thinks it is a good idea to send young Americans into Bosnia on the ground.

One of the major newspapers in my district, the Cincinnati Enquirer, published an editorial last week which I think sums up the views of most of my constituents and the constituents of many other Members in this body, and I would like to insert that in the

RECORD at this point. This is a copy of the article:

[The Cincinnati Enquirer, Oct. 24, 1995]

NO WAY—SENDING U.S. TROOPS TO BOSNIA WOULD BE A DISASTROUS BLUNDER

It may throw a wet blanket on the United Nations' 50th birthday party, but someone besides Russian President Boris Yeltsin should ask some tough questions about the U.N. debacle in Bosnia.

Start by asking President Clinton: How can a contortionist who twisted himself into ethical pretzels to avoid Vietnam, send 20,000 U.S. troops marching into quicksand in Bosnia?

The echoes of Vietnam are unmistakable: Another war in which unsupported troops fight for unexplained goals in an ungrateful land. For all his recent rhetoric about rescuing NATO and performing a "peacekeeping" role, Clinton still has not offered a reason why one American life — much less 20,000 — should be risked for a shameful paper "peace" that ratifies the rape and plunder of Bosnia.

The fragile truce now in effect (between attacks) exists only because the Bosnian Serbs dread Croat attacks more than air strikes or U.N. scolding. Bloodthirsty Bosnian Serbs who bombarded unarmed cities are fleeing from the Croatian army.

So now they suddenly want to talk peace. If a real peace agreement can be worked out in talk that begin Oct. 31 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, there will be plenty of soldiers on all side to enforce it.

Sending U.S. troops into a flammable pit of ethnic hatred, where death has been a fact of life since 1992, will invite hostage taking and terrorism against our soldiers, to inflame American outrage against Clinton's policy. Somalia and the near-loss of a U.S. flier in Bosnia should be fresh, painful reminder that it is sheer folly to gamble American blood in a game where our nation has no cards to play.

If that's not enough Clinton can recall his own protests against Vietnam.

Instead, he threatens to invoke his presidential war powers to send troops, even if Congress balks.

Clinton's crew is already squishy, backing down on promises that U.S. troops would be out in one year. Former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told CBS, "To talk about a timetable that we will be out within a year, when do don't know what the objective is, and haven't really develop a plan for executing that, raises serious questions about the quality of the decision making process within the administration."

After leaving Bosnia policy on U.N. cruise control until it ran into a ditch, Clinton now wants to floorboard U.S. intervention. If he does, it will take more than a wrecker to pull us out.

Madam Speaker, I want to stress again this is not a partisan issue. This is an issue where first and foremost we are talking about American lives, young men and young women who may be sent to die in a foreign land. We all remember the tragedy in Lebanon. Who can forget the image of those flag-draped caskets coming home from a peacekeeping mission in a land where there was no peace? And we remember the more recent tragedies when this Government sent more of its young people on a loosely defined mission to Somalia. The image of that young American soldier's body being dragged through the streets is forever etched in our memories.

Madam Speaker, let us not commit our young soldiers to another so-called

peacekeeping mission which is doomed to failure. Let us put a stop to this ill-advised Bosnian plan before it is too late.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored tonight to participate in this special order, and I thank the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] for her efforts in organizing this commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Most importantly, we are here to pay tribute to the women and men who fight to survive this deadly and tragic disease.

Breast cancer claims the lives of more than 44,000 women and 300 men each year. Excluding cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, accounting for one out of every three cancer diagnoses.

In 1996, over 184,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed.

While the statistics are daunting, there is hope.

We have learned over the years that early diagnosis and early treatment of breast cancer dramatically increases survival rates for its victims.

I know something about the importance of early detection—it saved my life.

Nine years ago, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. But I was lucky. My cancer was discovered early and I have been cancer free for 9 years. I am forever grateful to the wonderful doctors and nurses who saved my life and to the many researchers whose relentless and often unrecognized efforts have produced so many advancements in cancer detection and treatment.

We know that early detection is the most effective way to keep cancer from killing. Unfortunately, these services are not as readily and widely available as they need to be.

Therefore, we must continue to fight for increased funding for breast cancer research and screening. As a member of the National Security Committee, I worked hard to ensure that the House appropriated \$100 million for breast cancer programs in the Department of Defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996.

Furthermore, we must fight for increased funding for the breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. The House appropriated a 5.7 percent increase in funding for the National Cancer Institute, which funds the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention programs which I sponsored.