

early detection. Along with breast self-examination, this is one of the best steps women can take for themselves in the fight against breast cancer. And it is the single best service our health care system can make available to all women in this struggle. Offering this service is not enough. We must also assure the quality of the service, especially the equipment used.

Early detection made possible by mammography is wise health care. With early detection we can reduce the mortality rate by one-third. Furthermore, early discovery of the disease allows for less radical and less costly treatments. Equally important, with the provision of mammography, we say to American women that we understand the trauma of this disease and will persist in efforts to triumph over it.

Remembering that these women are our wives, sisters, mothers, daughters, and friends, I am proud to add my voice in recognition of National Mammography Day.

NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today, I would like to call attention to a day of critical importance to women across this Nation—National Mammography Day.

America's women are facing a devastating crisis, and its name is breast cancer.

It is a devastating crisis that targets women's lives, their confidence in health care, their work, their friends and their families.

It is a crisis that results in approximately 182,000 new cases of breast cancer being diagnosed each year, and 46,000 deaths.

Breast cancer is a crisis that has become the most common form of cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women—an estimated 2.6 million in the United States are living with breast cancer, 1.6 million have been diagnosed, and an estimated 1 million women do not yet know they have breast cancer.

It is a crisis in which one out of eight women in our country will come to develop breast cancer in their lifetimes—a risk that was one out of 14 in 1960. In fact, this year, a new case of breast cancer will be diagnosed every 3 minutes, and a woman will die from breast cancer every 11 minutes.

It is a crisis that has tragically claimed the lives of almost 1 million women of all ages and backgrounds since 1960. This is more than two times the number of all Americans who have died in World War I, World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and the Persian Gulf war, and 48 percent of these deaths occurred in the past 10 years alone.

Finally, it is a crisis that has become the leading cause of death for women aged 40 to 44, and the leading cause of cancer death in women aged 25 to 54.

But what really hits home for this Senator is the fact that my mother

died of breast cancer when I was only 9 years old, as well as the fact that 900 Maine women were diagnosed with breast cancer last year.

This is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Maine women, and this represents more than 30 percent of all new cancers among women in Maine.

We all know these statistics, we live with them every day of our lives and face them with a growing concern and deepening sorrow, and they are a constant reminder of the work that remains to be done.

But we know that they represent more than just numbers—each number represents the life of a mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, daughter, wife, friend, or co-worker. They are the fabric of our families, our communities, our States and our Nation.

As a former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I have joined other members of that caucus in working diligently to bring the respect and action that is needed to the struggle against breast cancer.

In past years, we have introduced and passed vital legislation to help us win this struggle—and that has included the Women's Health Equity Act, which in 1993 included the National Breast Cancer Strategy Act, which established a National Breast Cancer Commission—an interagency office on breast cancer—and authorizes \$300 million for increased breast cancer research at NIH.

The WHEA also contained the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act Reauthorization, which provides much-needed grants to States for mammograms and pap-smears for low-income women and was passed by Congress and signed into law in late 1993.

And we also passed the NIH Revitalization Act, which authorized increased funding for clinical research on breast, cervical and other reproductive cancers in women.

But these are just the first steps in our crusade to find a cure for breast cancer and to bring relief and comfort to its victims and their families.

Our fight goes on. We need more funding. We need more research. We need more education and awareness of breast cancer and its causes. We need more understanding. We need more compassion. And we need a cure.

Yet despite these frightening statistics, we know that with early detection and regular screening, a survival rate of over 90 percent can be achieved. Unfortunately, these statistics reveal that not enough women are taking advantage of preventive measures with proven benefits—such as mammograms. In fact, the Director of the National Cancer Institute announced yesterday that “one of the biggest barriers to reducing breast cancer mortality is lack of information.”

Given that such a promising survival rate is associated with early detection and treatment, it is essential that we be relentless in our efforts to increase public awareness of this terrible dis-

ease. The lives of our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends may well depend on our ability to educate them about the importance of mammograms.

This year, I submitted Senate Concurrent Resolution 8, expressing the sense of Congress on the need for accurate guidelines for breast cancer screening for women ages 40-49. However, on this day, National Mammography Day, there are things we can all do to ensure there are no more victims of breast cancer, but only survivors. Talk to the women in your family and your home States about the importance of breast cancer screening. Tell them to arrange for a physical, including a clinical breast exam. Tell them to schedule a mammogram for themselves or a loved one. Talk to them. Talk to them today. Tell them not to wait.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 177) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 177

Whereas, according to the American Cancer Society, one hundred eighty-two thousand women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 1995, and forty-six thousand women will die from this disease;

Whereas, in the decade of the 1990's, it is estimated that about two million women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, resulting in nearly five hundred thousand deaths;

Whereas the risk of breast cancer increases with age, with a woman at age seventy having twice as much of a chance of developing the disease than a woman at age fifty;

Whereas 80 percent of the women who get breast cancer have no family history of the disease;

Whereas mammograms, when operated professionally at a certified facility, can provide a safe and quick diagnosis;

Whereas experts agree that mammography is the best method of early detection of breast cancer, and early detection is the key to saving lives; and

Whereas mammograms can reveal the presence of small cancers of up to two years or more before regular clinical breast examination or breast self-examination (BSE), saving as many as one-third more lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designate October 19, 1995 as “National Mammography Day.” The Senate requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate programs and activities.

REFERRAL OF AMTRAK APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar 206, S. 1318, the Amtrak and Local Rail

Revitalization Act of 1995, be referred to the Finance Committee solely for the consideration of title 10 of the bill, for not to exceed 15 calendar days; and further, that if the bill has not been reported from the committee after the 15 days, it automatically be discharged and placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOSE TAX BREAK LOOPHOLES

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I rise before the Senate to comment on some of the provisions of the legislation to be reported out of the Senate Finance Committee.

I want to start out by asking a simple question: Why are we reducing revenue and investment in Medicare and medical assistance and higher education and other programs, which are critical to communities and people in Minnesota and all across the country, before going after some of the tax breaks for special interests that have been embedded in the tax code for decades?

If we are serious about deficit reduction, it seems to me that all these loopholes and deductions and giveaways ought to also be on the table.

Mr. President, what kind of priorities are these that are reflected in this bill? They are certainly not the priorities of the people I represent, who understand the value of having funding available to take care of elderly people, understand the value of taking care of vulnerable people who are in nursing homes, of boosting kids' chances to go to college, of helping struggling families enter the middle class, of ensuring that elderly people can afford health care, of making sure that children have adequate nutrition. It makes no sense at all, Mr. President.

After days of closed-door meetings, this week Republicans on the committee announced their proposal for a \$245 billion tax cut. Taken as a whole, this proposal includes serious reductions and cuts in Medicare and Medicaid and, in addition, includes some enormous new tax breaks for wealthy corporations and others, further worsening our budget crisis.

Mr. President, instead of scaling back billions of dollars in tax breaks, it provides billions for firms with high-powered tax lobbyists and almost nothing for working families.

In fact, by slashing the earned income tax credit for working families by over \$42 billion, this legislation will greatly increase the tax burden on millions of citizens throughout the country.

In my State of Minnesota, there will be an increase of taxes for 172,740 Minnesota taxpayers. Mr. President, these are low- and moderate-income families that are trying to work their way into the middle class.

At the same time, the bill makes only a tiny, token effort to partially scale back a few loopholes in the Tax

Code. And the proceeds from these modest changes are, in turn, used to subsidize new and much bigger tax breaks precisely for those taxpayers in the Nation who least need them.

For example, it relaxes the alternative minimum tax that was established in 1986. What was the idea back then? The idea was that large and profitable corporations, often multinational corporations, after taking a variety of different deductions and credits and exclusions, still are going to have to pay some minimum tax. It is a part of fairness. Now what we have is a provision to scale that back. That provision ought to be struck from this piece of legislation. It is truly outrageous.

If you ask people in the country, "Do you believe that tax cuts should be a priority while at the same time we are trying to reduce the deficit?" most would say—and the polls bear this out—"No." If you ask people, "Do you believe that tax breaks for large, profitable corporations ought to be expanded rather than scaled back?" virtually every single Minnesotan would say, "No." Even so, that is exactly what the Finance Committee is about the business of doing.

I offered an amendment on the budget resolution earlier this year to require that the Senate Finance Committee close \$70 billion of tax loopholes over the next several years. That amendment was defeated. Next week, or the following week when we take up the reconciliation bill, I intend to have specific proposals and amendments on the floor to close tax loopholes, with up-or-down votes.

If we are going to have the deficit reduction, if we are going to pay the interest on the debt—all of which we agree on—there ought to be a standard of fairness. And rather than focusing so much on the cuts in Medicare and medical assistance, rather than focusing on cuts in benefits for veterans, rather than causing great pain for children and the most vulnerable in our country, it seems to me it is not too much to ask that large corporations, wealthy corporations, pay their fair share. That is why we ought to plug some of these narrowly focused tax breaks and loopholes which allow the privileged few to escape paying their fair share, focusing on other people and forcing other people to pay higher taxes to make up the difference. This is a question of fairness. If you are going to have sacrifice, it ought to be equitable sacrifice.

Let me make a point here that is often overlooked. We can spend money just as easily through the Tax Code, through tax breaks, as we can through the normal appropriations process. Spending is spending, whether it comes in the form of a Government check or whether it is a tax break for some special purpose like a subsidy, a credit, a deduction, accelerated depreciation—you name it. Some of these tax expenditures are justified, they ought to be kept. But it does seem to me that, in a

time of tight budgets, in a time when we are focusing on deficit reduction, in a time when we are cutting into nutritional programs for children and higher education and health care and environmental protection, why in the world are not the tax subsidies for the large pharmaceutical companies and oil companies and tobacco companies and insurance companies and you name it, why are they not on the table?

Various groups, from all ideological perspectives, from the National Taxpayers Union to the Cato Institute to the Progressive Policy Institute to Citizens for Tax Justice, have prepared a list of tax loopholes and other subsidies which they believe should be eliminated. But, despite the logic of their approach, which is a Minnesota standard of fairness, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen the path of least political resistance: Slash the programs for the vulnerable elderly, slash the programs for the vulnerable poor, slash the earned-income tax credit, slash the programs for child care, slash the programs for middle-income people. But when it comes to these large, multinational corporate interests who march on Washington every day, the big players, the heavy hitters, people who have the lobbyists, for some reason, we do not ask them to tighten their belts at all.

It is only fair that this be a part of the agenda. So I want to just outline very briefly some of the areas on which I want to focus the attention of my colleagues next week. Let me give but a few examples.

I already talked about the minimum tax. The effort is to scale that back for certain corporations. That's wrong. Everybody ought to pay some minimum tax.

Second, let me talk about expensing for the oil and gas industry. This has been a special break for this industry. They get to expense their oil and gas exploration costs, instead of depreciating them over time. It is an expensive tax benefit for this industry. Why should the oil and gas industry receive special treatment in the Tax Code which is not generally available to other companies and industries? It is a simple question. If we are about the business of deficit reduction, we ought to close this loophole.

Or take section 936, the Puerto Rico tax credit that has been debated in some detail in recent years. The Finance Committee has finally acknowledged there ought to be some change. But what it does is it repeals this over a fairly long period of time, 7 years or so, with generous transition benefits for corporations in the interim period. If we are going to repeal it, I think what we have to do is move as quickly as possible. It simply makes no sense. For those who support a flatter tax or a fairer tax or tax justice and think we ought to make the cuts and ought to do the belt tightening, this ought to be on the table.