



HR0772

LRB096 15955 GRL 31200 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, According to estimates released by the American Cancer Society in 2009, 192,370 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer, of which 40,170 will die; and

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WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women; if breast cancer is detected in its earliest stages, women have more treatment options and a 96% survival rate; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, partial or total costs of mammograms are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most private health plans; and

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WHEREAS, Women in their forties account for more than a quarter of breast cancer diagnoses and are more prone to aggressive cancers that are resistant to treatment; and

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WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends annual screening using mammography and clinical breast examination for all women beginning at age 40; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly has recognized the benefits of early detection of breast cancer and has passed legislation expanding access to mammograms for all women in Illinois; and

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1           WHEREAS, Since 1995, the Illinois Breast and Cervical  
2 Cancer program has provided free screening and treatment for  
3 uninsured women living in Illinois; through this program, over  
4 66,000 women have been screened for breast and cervical cancer;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, In November of 2009, a report issued by the U.S.  
7 Preventative Services Task Force contradicted the American  
8 Cancer Society's recommendations for breast cancer screening  
9 by recommending that women have mammogram screenings every two  
10 years starting at age 50; and

11           WHEREAS, The contradiction between the American Cancer  
12 Society recommendations for early detection of breast cancer  
13 and the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force's findings and  
14 recommendations has caused confusion and concern among women  
15 and the health care industry; and

16           WHEREAS, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen  
17 Sebelius officially responded to the recommendations made by  
18 the U.S. Prevention Services Task Force by stating that women  
19 should continue getting mammograms starting at age 40;  
20 therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
2 state our belief that breast cancer is a serious health problem  
3 facing adult women and that mammography is part of the solution  
4 beginning at age 40; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we encourage all women to consult with their  
6 health care providers about the benefits of early detection of  
7 breast cancer; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of Public  
9 Health to continue and expand its efforts to promote awareness  
10 that early screenings for breast cancer and continue promoting  
11 breast cancer screening based on recommendations that are  
12 consistent with those of the American Cancer Society; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 presented to the Governor and the Director of the Illinois  
16 Department of Public Health.