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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to join the ranks of many of my colleagues who have taken time this month to focus on the terrible disease of breast cancer—its human costs as well as its economic costs; and the steps we are taking to combat it.

While breast cancer can strike both men and women, it is women who are most frequently its victims. Last year, an estimated 182,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer and 46,000 died of this disease. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer for women.

In my State of New Jersey, there are 98,000 women living with breast cancer. Many do not even know that they have the disease. This year alone, 1,600 New Jersey women will die of breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, breast cancer is an epidemic in our country. Every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with it; and every 11 minutes a woman dies from it. It costs our Nation $6 billion every year in medical costs and lost productivity. With these numbers, I am amazed that we are not dedicating more resources to learn more about the causes of breast cancer and to find a cure.

If you do not now know someone who has died from breast cancer or who is presently fighting it, you may be assured that at some point in your life, you will. Breast cancer strikes one in eight women, and is most common in women over age 65.

In 1991, the Medicare Program began covering biennial screening mammograms. However, in 1991–92, only 37 percent of female beneficiaries aged 65 and over received a Medicare-paid mammogram. This year Congress included in the budget expanded Medicare coverage for mammograms with the deductible waived for these screenings. It is imperative that women take advantage of this covered service. Early diagnosis is essential for successful treatment of this disease. Self-examination, and annual mammograms can save lives.

This year, the Pentagon's spending bill includes $160 million for breast cancer research and related treatment. The bulk of this appropriation will go toward the Army's peer-reviewed research program, which focuses on innovation; and encourages new investigators to enter the field of breast cancer research, as well as foster multidisciplinary approaches to this research.

The Health and Human Services appropriations bill presently working its way through the Congress, has a House-passed level of $145 million for breast and cervical cancer screenings.

The bill also contains language urging the National Cancer Institute [NCI] to strengthen its commitment to breast cancer research and to maintain support for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer.

In the House we need to pass legislation which will offer concrete assistance to victims of breast cancer. There are proposals pending in the House which will first, guarantee a minimum hospital stay of 48 hours for a woman having a mastectomy; which will second, guarantee that insurance companies will cover the cost of reconstructive breast surgery resulting from mastectomies for which coverage is already provided; which will third, guarantee that no insurance plan will be allowed to deny coverage to women for annual mammograms for women aged 40 and over. We need to pass these measures. And, most important, we need to increase the amount of money we allocate for breast cancer research in this country.

Mr. Speaker, to borrow from a well-known television commercial, these women are our wives, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, and aunts. We must do everything we possibly can to eliminate this disease, which devastates so many lives and families each year.

ENCRYPTION POLICY—AMERICA'S POLICE OPPOSE THE SAFE ACT (H.R. 695)

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if you want a perfect example of how the election process can be corrupted by using large amounts of money to enact policy which is detrimental to the interests of the American people, you need only look at H.R. 695, the SAFE Act.

The SAFE Act was drafted by and for the software industry with no consideration to the national security and public safety needs of the American people. I believe a compromise should be reached between industry's desires and the legitimate law enforcement concerns of the American people. However, Bill Gates, who is worth over $40 billion, is asking Congress to ignore the safety of the American people so he will make more money.

Today, police may conduct a search of property or intercept communications only after they prove to a judge that they have probable cause to believe that a crime may occur. We possess the capability to safeguard the status quo in criminal justice by using an encryption process called key recovery. Yet, the sponsors of H.R. 695 are unwilling to accept this compromise. In other words, H.R. 695 eliminates one of our most important law enforcement mechanisms. This is the reason virtually every police and law enforcement organization in the country opposes H.R. 695. The Drug Enforcement Agency, the FBI, the National Security Agency, the National Sheriffs' Association, the District Attorneys Associations and the Association of Chiefs of Police oppose the SAFE Act.

Justice Department officials testifying before the House Judiciary Committee stated that the SAFE Act, "would severely compromise law enforcement's ability to protect the American people from the threats posed by terrorists, organized crime, child pornographers, and other criminals. It is difficult enough to protect the American people from crime without making criminals' tasks any easier.

In a letter you received from our top law enforcement officials, they state that encryption bills which do not contain key recovery, such as the SAFE Act "risk great harm to our ability to enforce the laws and protect our citizens." They believe key recovery is essential "to allow police departments, attorney generals, district attorneys, sheriffs, and Federal authorities to continue to use their most effective investigative techniques, with court approval, to fight crime and espionage and prevent terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KAKE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Kake Land Exchange Act of 1997. This bill will provide for an exchange of land between Kake Tribal Corp. [KTC], a village corporation formed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Specifically, the legislation makes possible an exchange in which the corporation transfers approximately 2,427 acres of its ANCSA entitlement lands surrounding the municipal watershed of the city of Kake, for an equal acreage of land managed by the Forest Service in the Saginaw Bay and Hamilton Bay areas. The bill serves two important purposes and enjoys the support of the Governor of Alaska, the city of Kake, Sealaska—the Regional Native Corporation—and the Alaska Federation of Natives, as well as other individuals and groups in southeast Alaska.

The two primary goals of the bill are to protect and preserve the Gunnuk Creek Watershed, which serves as Kake's supply of drinking water, and to enable the shareholders of KTC to realize benefit from its land entitlement in fulfillment of ANCSA's purposes.

The need for the bill was illustrated in the 1970's and 1980's when timber harvesting of the land in the Gunnuk Creek Watershed raised great concern in the community of Kake. To safeguard the watershed, logging activity on these lands halted. However, because the lands are owned essentially by a for-profit corporation, residents of Kake, many of whom are KTC shareholders, do not have total assurance that the watershed can be protected over the long term.

This legislation solves this dilemma simply by allowing KTC to exchange the watershed lands for other timbered lands. The lands transferred to the Forest Service will have long-term protection, while the lands conveyed to KTC can be used for the benefit of its shareholders.

In furtherance of the purposes of this bill, the city of Kake is willing to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to manage the watershed property, once the exchange is completed. I believe this is a prudent move, and can be pursued either as part of this legislation or separately.

This exchange is an example of how economic development and protection of water resources can be simultaneously achieved in Southeast.

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