

bill, which was subsequently enacted into law, authorized a breast cancer research stamp for two years and required the General Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of this method of raising funds. In 2000, GAO determined that the semipostal stamp was indeed successful and an effective and appropriate way to fundraise. The GAO also determined that the Postal Service do more to recover its costs associated with the breast cancer research stamp program.

To address health issues raised by semipostal legislation pending in Congress, Representatives JOHN MCHUGH and CHAKA FATTAH, introduced H.R. 4437, the Semipostal Authorization Act. This act, which became law (PL 106–253) provided the Postal Service with discretionary authority to issue semipostal stamps, provided the revenue raised goes to federal agencies and is for medical research. This authority is similar to the discretion the Postal Service currently has in determining which commemorative stamps to approve and issue.

Mr. Speaker, every two minutes, a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with breast cancer. And, excluding cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. This year, it is estimated that about 212,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed, along with 58,000 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer. And, 40,000 women are expected to die from this disease.

It must be noted, that men get breast cancer too. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1200 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in American men each year.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer among white and African-American women. However, African-American women are more likely to die from this disease. And the incidence of breast cancer in women has increased from 1 in 20 in 1960 to 1 in 7 today.

Annually, nearly \$7 billion is spent on the treatment of breast cancer. All the more reason to support the Breast Cancer Semipostal Stamp. Through the sale of this stamp, we are able to raise awareness of this disease and participate directly in raising money for needed research.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman TOM DAVIS and Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN, as well as the chairmen and ranking members of the House Energy and Commerce and Armed Services Committees for moving quickly to get S. 37 to the House floor. It is wonderful to be able to approve this bill now, given that October is designated as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 37, Senator FEINSTEIN's companion bill to my H.R. 312. This bill authorizes the Breast Cancer Research Stamp through 2007. Without this legislation, this successful program would end this year.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As it comes to a close it is important to reflect on what is being done in the way of prevention and treatment of breast cancer.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have proposed to extend the deadline of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp, so that it will be available for purchase for two more years.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have been collaborating to bring awareness to this ever-present

disease and to help doctors and scientists fighting against it. I want to thank her for her unwavering dedication.

I also want to thank Dr. Ernie Bodhai, who developed the idea of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp and who has brought national awareness to the measure.

Dr. Bodhai inspired me to help support the Breast Cancer Research Stamp back when I served in the California State Assembly.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced this bill for one reason: to save lives.

We have worked together to pass this important bill so researchers can gain more insight on the disease and in turn, prevent tragedies.

This year more than 200,000 women and men will be diagnosed with breast cancer. More than 40,000 Americans will die from the disease this year.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in every major ethnic group in the United States.

It does not discriminate. Whether you are white, black, Hispanic or whatever your race or ethnicity. Everyone is at risk.

More than two million women are living with breast cancer in America today, yet one million of them have not been diagnosed.

Breast cancer is a leading killer of American women. The disease claims another woman's life every 13 minutes in the United States.

That is why it is so important to increase funding for breast cancer research—and why we must continue sales of the stamp.

The Breast Cancer Research Stamp is among the most successful commemorative stamps of all time with 637 million stamps sold.

The stamp program has generated over 47 million dollars for breast cancer research. It has been a critical ally in generating the resources necessary to wage war on this terrible disease.

The stamp is a "semi-postal" stamp that can be voluntarily purchased by the public for 45 cents.

For each stamp sold, 8 cents goes to the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program.

Working with Dr. Bodhai, Senator FEINSTEIN introduced the Breast Cancer Research Stamp bill in 1998 to help support the fight against breast cancer.

I am proud that Californians continue to lead the way in stamp purchases, providing roughly 21 percent of the money raised nationwide.

I ask my colleagues to support the Breast Cancer Research Stamp and all the women and men who will benefit from the money the stamp raises.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have the support of 153 Members of Congress and 69 Senators who cosponsored the bills and of countless organizations like the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the Breast Cancer Fund, WIN Against Breast Cancer, and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

By supporting reauthorization of this stamp, you are not only helping research but you are also helping to raise awareness.

Think about it! A customer purchases the stamp, a carrier delivers it, and a person receives it. That is three people who have seen the message saying: "breast cancer needs to be stamped out!"

Each time we use the stamp we raise additional funds for research and we send a message of hope that we will find a cure.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 37.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

PRaising THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to say thank you to our leadership, to Speaker HASTERT, to Mr. BLUNT, to Ms. PRYCE, to commend them for working through fiscal responsibility, budget control, for making it a priority and for standing firm as we move forward to reconciliation on the budget for this next fiscal year.

I also want to commend our committee chairmen who are working hard to find the savings that are necessary to reduce what the Federal Government spends. They are holding mark-ups, hearings, working through this process; and they are focused. Our membership is focused.

The committee chairmen are to be commended for that work, and through this process the winners are going to be the American people. We are doing what they want, reining in government spending, being better stewards of their tax dollars. We have got a long way to go in the process. They are the winners. We are cutting back and terminating over 98 programs. These are first steps to economic stability and fiscal responsibility.

□ 1630

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION HOUSTON ASTROS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Houston Astros gave the State of Texas and the city of Houston one heck of a good ride. I just want to hold a little red card in my hand for lack of anything red this afternoon to be able to thank the Astros family, Drayton McLane, all of the players, the management, all the staff at Minute Maid Park, to be able to say a big thank you for a long, tedious season, but a hard-fought season. My hat is off.