

Prior to publishing this report, I convened a hearing where numerous agencies, organizations, and individuals, included Senator SNOWE, testified about the impact of NCI's decision on the lives of women.

The message from all respected voices is clear: mammograms can save the lives of women in their forties, a disproportionate number of whom are African-American. As a concerned Member of Congress, on February 5, 1997, I introduced a Sense of the House resolution, House Resolution 40, encouraging Members to make a unified, unequivocal statement that women between the ages of 40 and 49 need clear, accurate guidelines for breast cancer screening.

I urge you to support this resolution to lead the charge for saving women's lives.

INCOME EQUITY ACT OF 1997

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, a year ago at this time, one couldn't open a newspaper or magazine without reading about the widening gap between the rich and poor in our Nation. Today, however, these articles are difficult to find. Although income inequality has declined slightly from its high point in 1993, we are still in the midst of a long-term rise in inequality that has persisted since the late 1960's.

While the income gap persists, working Americans are finding it even harder to make ends meet. Though our economy continues to grow, most American families have not returned to the income levels they had before the 1989 recession. In fact, in 1994 more than 16 percent of full-time workers could not support their families above the four-person poverty level—compared to 12 percent in 1979.

Although many forces lie behind the growing inequality of income and wealth in America, it is clear that both Government and corporate America have roles to play in narrowing the gap. For this reason, I am introducing the Income Equity Act of 1997. This legislation addresses the problem by encouraging corporate responsibility. For too many years, the trend in corporate America has been to pay top executives lavishly, while thinking of other employees as an expense or not thinking of them at all. My legislation will force companies to take a close look at how they compensate their employees at both ends of the income ladder.

The Income Equity Act would end our Government's practice of subsidizing excessive executive pay through the Tax Code by denying tax deductions for executive compensation that exceeds 25 times the company's lowest paid full-time employee. For example, if a filing clerk at a firm earns \$10,000, then any amount of executive salary over \$250,000 would no longer be tax deductible as a business expense. This bill will not restrict the freedom of companies to pay their workers and executives as they please. It will send a strong message, however, that in return for tax deductions, the American taxpayer expects companies to compensate their lowest paid workers fairly.

Economic inequality is a problem that will, if not addressed, rend the fabric of our society. Our Government has every reason, and every

right, to encourage responsible corporate citizenship. The Income Equity Act is not the ultimate answer to the widening gap between the rich and the poor, but it is an important step toward ensuring that all Americans can share in our Nation's prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE KETCHUM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commend to you and my other distinguished colleagues, Ms. Irene Ketchum, an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District. Irene is a shining example of commendable dedication to voluntarism. At the end of 1996, in recognition of her unselfish commitment to the community of northwest Indiana, Indiana State Representative Dan Stevenson of Hammond, IN, presented Irene with Indiana's highest honor designated by Governor Evan Bayh, the Sagamore of the Wabash. This distinguished award was bestowed upon her at a Democratic precinct open house at the Wicker Park Social Center.

Irene's distinguished career includes being managing editor of the Herald Newspapers in Gary, IN, from 1950–55. From 1956 to 1979, Irene served as clerk treasurer for the town of Highland, and in 1980, she became a trustee and board secretary of the Lake County Public Library.

Over the years, Irene has devoted her time to many community service organizations. She has served as treasurer of the Highland Community Events Council, president of the Highland Women's Democratic Club, and auditor of the Highland Democratic Club. Moreover, Irene has served as treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president of the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers, and she is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts of America USA. In 1995, the Girl Scouts Calumet Council honored Irene with its Woman of Distinction Award.

Irene unselfishly spends 1 day a week at an east Chicago, Indiana church rectory, doing office work, and 1 day a week at Our Lady of Grace school library. Irene also aids the Hammond Public Library with the program for seniors once a month. Currently, Irene is treasurer for the St. John Deanery Council of Catholic Women, and she is president of the Our Lady of Grace Court 80, National Catholic Society of Foresters.

In a country that benefits immensely from voluntarism, Irene has proven that unselfishness has unlimited rewards that do not go unrecognized. Irene can be proud of her efforts to enrich the caliber of life in Indiana's First Congressional District. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Irene for her lifetime devotion to community service.

BERNICE C. JOHNSON—CITIZEN ACTIVIST

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues one of

the spokes in the wheel of justice. Ms. Bernice Johnson's life represents that toward which we all should aspire—belief in self, commitment to community, dedication to the principles of democracy, and resolve to carry on in spite of adversity.

Ms. Johnson has worked in areas of voter registration, voter education, and voter participation in Jefferson County and throughout the State of Alabama. From 1963 to 1965, she traveled throughout the State organizing African-Americans for voter registration. It was not an easy task. She documented evidence which was sent to the U.S. Department of Justice during President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration. This data was useful in laying the groundwork for the need of Federal examiners in the State of Alabama.

She has worked with many community organizations. She was the first African-American woman to serve on the Alabama State Textbook Committee, the first African-American woman to run for the Jefferson County Board of Education, and the first African-American woman to serve on the Birmingham Planning and Zoning Board.

Ms. Johnson is firmly dedicated to the principles of democracy and the belief that "complete democracy will become a reality through proper use of the ballot." Her steadfast activism has made my State a better place for all Alabamians. With due diligence, unyielding faith and an appreciation for equal justice for all, Ms. Bernice Johnson has lived her life in a manner that is due the utmost respect. Today, in a small way, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize her for her many successful achievements.

DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION AFFILIATION ACT OF 1997

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Depository Institution Affiliation Act of 1997, which is legislation designed to enhance the competitiveness of our financial services sector in preparation for the 21st century. This legislation is similar to H.R. 814 which I introduced in the 104th Congress. I am pleased to introduce this legislation again in the 105th Congress. It is my hope that our efforts this year will be successful in framing the debate on financial services modernization.

Senator ALFONSE D'AMATO, chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, is also joining me in introducing similar legislation in the Senate today. Senator D'AMATO and I share both a belief in the merits of this approach, and a commitment to pass financial modernization during this Congress.

I want to make it clear that I am totally committed to passage of the most far-reaching financial modernization package possible in the 105th Congress. The introduction of the Depository Institution Affiliations Act of 1997 signals that I am committed to an approach that allows for the broadest possible reforms and recognizes the reality of the current marketplace. This reality is that today's dynamic financial marketplace is being ill-served by the