

have served to improve the quality of living for thousands of Native American families and communities.

The ANA funding policy is to assist Indian Tribes and Native American organizations to plan and implement their own long-term strategies for social and economic development. The aim is to increase local productivity and reduce dependence on government social services. This legislation will extend until fiscal year 2000 the authorization for these modestly funded yet very successful programs to strengthen and rebuild tribal communities around the United States.

I wish to thank my good friends, Senator CAMPBELL, Senator INOUE and Senator MURKOWSKI for their efforts to extend the authorization for these valuable resources to improve opportunities for self-sufficiency for Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and other native peoples.

Mr. Speaker, the programs authorized in this measure are critical to fostering social and economic self-sufficiency—a goal shared by this Congress as we move toward greater fiscal responsibility in all American communities. I urge my colleagues to act favorably and expeditiously on this measure.

COMMEMORATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONROE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Monroe Township, New Jersey as they celebrate their 160th anniversary.

Monroe, named after our fifth president, James Monroe, became a township on February 23, 1838. The first people to inhabit the land were the Leni Lenape Indians, followed by those seeking religious freedom from England and Scotland who arrived in the mid-seventeenth century. Both groups were attracted to the area's fertile soil, abundant water and miles of woodland. When Monroe became a township 160 years ago, its population was only 2,435.

Over the past 160 years, Monroe has grown from a rural, farming area into an active residential and commercial community. But residents and visitors to this beautiful town can still enjoy its working horse and produce farms and plush woodlands. Monroe Township is the home of five large planned retirement communities where almost half of their population of roughly 27,000 people reside. It boasts a strong educational system, many parks and recreation facilities and a close-knit community atmosphere.

I wish to commend Monroe Township and all of the people of Monroe on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to have this great township within the borders of the twelfth congressional district.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, the attached letters are submitted for inclusion in the RECORD.

OCTOBER 6, 1998.

Hon. TOM BLILEY, *Chairman, House Committee on Commerce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY: On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), I am writing to thank you for your support and leadership in reauthorizing the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). By adopting national standards for the provision of mammography, the Congress has helped ensure that women get the highest quality screening.

We would also like to commend your leadership for working so hard to include a direct notification provision in this year's reauthorization. This is a very important issue for women. As you know, NBCC believes along with the Agency for Health Care and Policy Research (AHCPR) that the best public health policy is for women to receive direct written notification of the results of their mammogram. Direct notification will permit women to make informed medical decisions at a critical time.

Our experience as activists and consumers is that without a requirement that facilities provide direct written notification to patients—it won't always happen. Without direct reporting, some women, waiting to hear from their physician may make the tragic assumption that "no news is good news." It is for that reason that your leadership on including this requirement is so significant.

Thank you again for your commitment to this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to eradicate breast cancer.

Sincerely,

FRANCES M. VISCO,
President.

AUGUST 3, 1998.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BLILEY: On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), I want to thank you for your leadership in the reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA). This program, which establishes minimum national quality standards for mammography facilities and personnel as well as a rigorous annual inspection program to ensure those standards are being met, is an important component in the arsenal for fighting breast cancer.

The NBCC is extremely pleased that the Committee has included language that would require facilities to provide direct written notification of mammographic results to all patients. We join the Agency for Health Care Policy Research (AHCPR) and other experts and consumers in believing that direct notification is the best public policy.

We also understand that the bill includes language that would permit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct a limited demonstration project to determine the feasibility of inspecting high-performing mammography facilities on a less than annual basis. While we have concerns about

backing away from annual inspections, we have been working with the Committee to ensure that any demonstration project is done on a restricted basis with regard to the facilities that are selected for inclusion in the program. Moreover, the demonstration, not to begin before April 1, 2001, should be constructed with the utmost caution to ensure facilities continue to adhere to tough national mammography standards.

We look forward to working with the Committee to continue to find ways to improve the MQSA program. Thank you again for your leadership and support.

Sincerely,

FRAN VISCO,
President.

STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE BRUNSWICK, VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION, SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today. On behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, I want to begin by thanking Chairman Bilely, Chairman Bilirakis, and the Members of the House Commerce Committee for their leadership in reauthorizing H.R. 4382, the Mammography Quality Standards Act. MQSA establishes minimum national quality standards for mammography facilities and personnel and also includes a rigorous annual inspection program to ensure those standards are met. These are essential components in the fight against breast cancer.

H.R. 4382 improves mammography screening by providing all patients—for the first time ever—with direct written notification of their mammography test results. NBCC believes that women are entitled to know the results of their own mammograms and that they should not have to rely solely on their physicians to notify them of their results.

NBCC believes that written notification is the right public policy. It permits women to make informed medical decisions at a critical time. Public health organizations and consumer advocates have stressed consistently that women are entitled to know the results of their exams and that it is the facilities' responsibility to provide direct written notification of mammography results to all patients. For numerous reasons, many health care providers do not always communicate the results of mammograms to patients. And some women, waiting to hear from their physician, may make the tragic assumption that "no news is good news."

As the Mammography Quality Standards Act was originally adopted into law, there was already a requirement for self-referred women to be directly notified about the results of their mammography. Without a requirement that all patients are notified directly, the concern is that women may not hear about their mammography results until it's too late.

NBCC is not alone in supporting direct written notification. Based on extensive review of the literature, expert testimony, and contributions of an independent multidisciplinary panel of private-sector clinicians, other experts and consumers, the Agency for Health Care Policy Research (AHCPR) strongly recommended direct written notification in the Clinical Practice Guideline:

"Any written communication must have language that is carefully constructed to impart results without causing undue anxiety, to promote a relationship between the woman and health care provider, and to encourage the woman to take the next step."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stated that it "continues to believe that written notification of mammographic results is the most reliable way to guarantee