

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF
EARLY DETECTION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of Cervical Cancer Awareness and the importance of early detection to prevent deaths as we close the month of January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

In the year 2002, the American Cancer Society estimates that there will be about 13,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer in the United States and about 4,100 women will die from this disease. Many of these deaths could be avoided by increasing screening rates among all women at risks.

Cervical cancer screening using the Pap test detects not only cancer but also precancerous lesions. Detecting and treating such lesions can actually prevent cervical cancer—and thus can prevent virtually all deaths from this disease.

We should recall that the Labor-HHS Appropriations final bill approved \$192.6 million for funding for breast and cervical cancer screening. We hope the administration will implement these appropriations at the level passed by Congress. However, despite the funding approved, public awareness about the importance of early detection of Cervical Cancer still remains very limited. This is especially so among certain minority and ethnic women who

have less than a high school education, or who live below the poverty level.

Today I introduce a Concurrent Resolution to recognize the importance of good cervical health and the importance of early detection of cervical cancer. As January is Cervical Cancer month, I would like to encourage you to join me in supporting efforts to promote early detection of cervical cancer so that we can together eradicate this disease that has already taken the lives of many American women.

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the annual celebration of "Catholic Schools Week." Each year, the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Catholic Conference sponsor a week long celebration recognizing the outstanding educational contributions of America's Catholic schools. Catholic schools locally and nationally will mark this festive occasion by hosting many community, parish and school events.

In Pennsylvania alone, Catholic elementary and secondary schools educate approximately 240,000 students yearly. These schools operate with complete devotion to each and every student, providing them with solid values and academic skills needed in becoming respon-

sible citizens of Pennsylvania and the nation. Catholic institutions tout a 95 percent graduation rate, and 83 percent of Catholic school graduates pursue higher degrees. A truly remarkable and impressive statistic.

Not only do Catholic schools boast these high standards and excellent achievements, but fervently instill in their students the idea and necessity for commitment to family and the community. Most, if not all, Catholic students willingly provide countless hours of volunteer service to the local parish as well as the entire community. This only proves that Catholic schools students are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, family and community.

President Bush recently signed into law a comprehensive education reform package emphasizing accountability, local control and flexibility, expanded options for parents, and funding for programs that work. Given Catholic schools record of success and standard of excellence, it is only fitting that these private institutions continue to serve as a model for public education reform in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate and express great appreciation to the nation's Catholic schools on the occasion of "Catholic Schools Week." I especially salute the many Catholic school teachers, principals, and school administrators in my Pennsylvania Congressional district of Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Cumberland, and Lancaster for their hard work and dedication which has benefitted so many young people. My best to all the students in their continuing academic careers and future endeavors.