

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2006

The Honorable Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Boehner,

As women Members of Congress, we are writing to urge floor consideration of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act of 2006 (H.R. 5472) before Congress adjourns for the year.

H.R. 5472 was introduced in May 2006 by Congresswoman Sue Myrick with bipartisan support, and has garnered 118 cosponsors to date. For the past 15 years, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has helped low-income, uninsured, and underserved women gain access to potentially lifesaving screening for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer as well as education, outreach, case management and treatment services.

Hundreds of thousands of women across the country are affected by breast and cervical cancer each year, as well as their families and loved ones. More than 212,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer this year and over 40,000 women will die from the disease. Nearly 10,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer this year, and about 3,700 women will die from the disease. While strides have been made in cervical cancer research this year, particularly with the Food and Drug Administration's approval of a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, the virus which causes most cervical cancer cases, screening is still an incredibly important tool.

As a result of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, nearly 6 million cancer screening examinations have been provided to more than 2.5 million women. The program has diagnosed more than 17,000 breast cancers, more than 60,000 precancerous cervical lesions, and over 1,100 cervical cancers. Early detection of breast and cervical cancers has a dramatic impact on survival. When detected at its earliest stages, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer is nearly 98 percent, and the five-year survival rate for cervical cancer is more than 92 percent. Even though cancer screening tests are more widely available and help save women's lives, deaths from breast and cervical cancer occur more frequently among women who are uninsured or under-insured.

As Members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, which was instrumental in the establishment of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

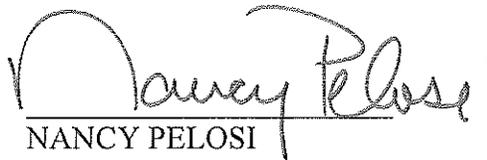
in 1991, we believe this program is a vital component of the health care safety net in our country. Today, we continue the proud legacy of fighting to improve the health of all women in our country and ask that you schedule H.R. 5472 for floor consideration before the end of the 109th Congress.

Sincerely,


HILDA L. SOLIS
Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus
for Women's Issues


GINNY BROWN-WAITE
Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus
for Women's Issues


LOIS CAPPS
Co-Vice Chair, Congressional Caucus
for Women's Issues


NANCY PELOSI
House Democratic Leader


TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress


SUE MYRICK
Member of Congress


ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress

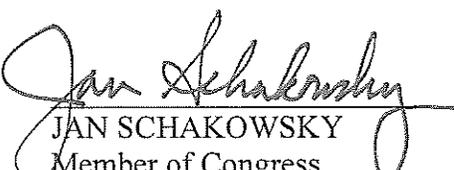

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
Member of Congress

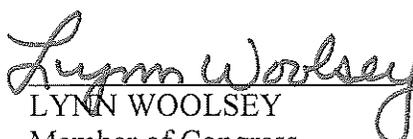

NITA LOWEY
Member of Congress


JO ANN DAVIS
Member of Congress


SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress


KATHERINE HARRIS
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress


LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

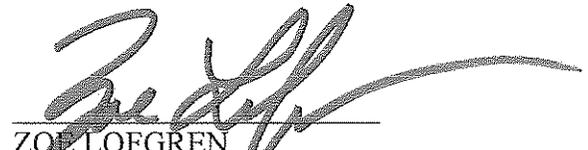

CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress


BETTY McCOLLUM
Member of Congress

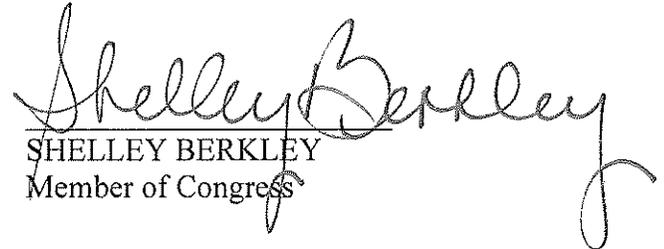

MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress


NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress


JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
Member of Congress


ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress


LINDA SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress


SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress

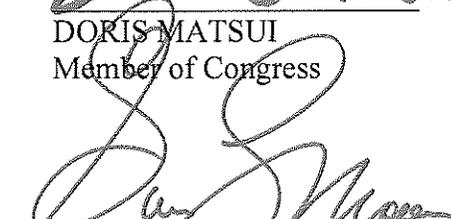

CAROLYN McCARTHY
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

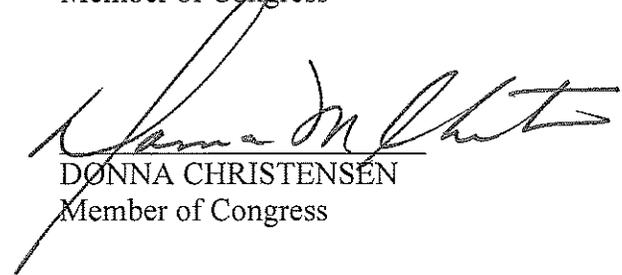

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress


DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress


MELISSA BEAN
Member of Congress


GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress


SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress


DONNA CHRISTENSEN
Member of Congress



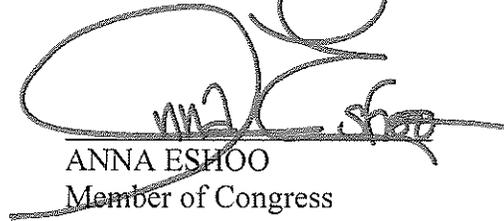
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
Member of Congress



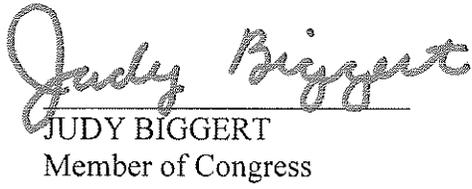
CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



JUDY BIGGERT
Member of Congress
